FINAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DURBHUNGA RAJ

BY THE COURT OF WARDS

From November 1860 to September 1879.

Calcutta:
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1880.

No. 318*A*.

FROM H. J. S. COTTON, ESQ.,

Offg. Secretary to the Board of Revenue, L.P.,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 11*th May*, 1880.

LAND REVENUE.
(Wards' and Attached Estates.)

SIR,

HON'BLE H. L. DAMPIER.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Colonel J. Burn's report, No. 514, dated 13th December 1879, and the Patna Commissioner's review, No. 421W, dated 10th February 1880, of the administration of the Durbhunga Raj by the Court of Wards from November 1860 to September 1879.

2. The Board think that they may fairly say with the Commissioner, Mr. F. M. Halliday, that the Court of Wards may congratulate itself on the result of its management of this magnificient estate; and they may add, on the success which has attended the education of the young Maharajah Luchmeswar Singh and his brother Rameswar Singh.

3. The Government of Bengal has already expressed its "high sense of the excellent service rendered by Colonel Burn during the long term of his incumbency" as Manager of the estate. The Board desire me to say that they also have much pleasure in bearing witness to the efficiency and ability with which Major R. C. Money conducted the management during Colonel Burn's temporary absence on leave.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. J. S. COTTON,

Offg. Secretary.

No. 421W, dated Bankipore, the 10th February 1880.

From—F. M. HALLIDAY, ESQ., Commissioner of the Patna Division,

To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to forward the final report on the administration of the Durbhunga estate by the Court of Wards, submitted by Colonel Burn, Manager, together with a copy of my resolution on the accounts therewith forwarded.

2. The report is full and complete, and I need only notice the principal features of the Court's administration.

3. The Durbhunga estate is perhaps the largest property that ever came under the management of the Court of Wards in Bengal. This princely estate comprises about 2,410 square miles, and has a population of three-fourths of a million. The property is scattered over the districts of Durbhunga, Mozufferpore, Bhagulpore, Monghyr, and Purneah. For fiscal management the estate is divided into three portions, viz. the Tirhoot and Bhagulpore portion, the Khurruckpore or Monghyr portion, and the Dhurmpore or Purneah portion. The bulk of the population is agricultural. The proportion of Hindus to Mahomedans is as 10 to 1. Of the Hindus about one-nineteenth are high caste Brahmins.

4. The estate was taken under the Court of Wards in 1860 on the death of the late Maharajah Moheswar Singh, who left two minor sons—Lachmeshwar Singh and Rameshwar Singh—and a daughter.

5. The history of the family is interesting. Mohesh Thakur, the founder of the family, migrated from Murhla, near Jubbulpore, to Tirhoot early in the 16th century, shortly before the Mahomedan conquest. He took service as a family priest under the ancient Hindu Rajahs. Subsequently, after the Mahomedans had overrun Tirhoot and the race of the Hindu Rajahs became extinct, Mohesh Thakur sent a pupil of his (Rughunundun Thakur) to the court of the Emperor of Delhi, where by his abilities in polemical discussions he so much ingratiated himself with the Emperor Akbar, that he was pleased to confer upon him the Tirhoot Raj, and subsequently at his request transferred it to his tutor Mohesh Thakur. In the early part of the 18th century Rughu Singh, one of his descendants, obtained by large presents the perpetual lease of Sarkar Tirhoot, at an annual jumma of one lakh of rupees. He was the first of the family upon whom the title of Rajah was formally conferred. Subsequently, having incurred the displeasure of the Nawab, he fled, and was deprived of his property. Eventually he was allowed to return as a mere collector of revenue, and permitted to hold a few villages rent-free. Narendra Singh, his son, obtained from Nawab Ali Verdi Khan the grant of the *dusturat*, or the right to levy Rs. 1-8 on each *asl* mouzah, one anna per rupee of each kabulyat, and malikana of 10 per cent. on his own zemindary. In 1772 the British Government resumed the nankar lands, the *dusturat*, and the malikanah; but subsequently made a settlement with the Rajah for Rs. 1,58,227. Chuttur Singh, who succeeded in 1808, got the title of Maharajah conferred upon him. He was an intelligent man and managed his propety remarkably well. He was succeeded by this eldest son Rudra Singh. His younger son, Basdeo Singh, brought a suit against him for partition of the raj, but without success, the Courts holding that by family custom the eldest son alone is entitled to the Raj. Rudra Singh was extravagant and soon got into debt. He was succeeded by his son Moheshwar Sing, who was indolent and incapable of managing his estate. For the last few years of his life he left the management of his affairs entirely in the hands of a corrupt amlah; the consequence was that on his death in 1860 the estate was found encumbered with debt amounting to a crore of rupees.

6. On the death of the late Maharajah Maheshwar Singh, the Court of Wards took charge of the estate under Regulation X of 1793. His eldest surviving brother, Baboo Guneshwar Sing, produced a will alleged to have been executed just before his brother's death, appointing him guardian to the minors. There were grave doubts as to the genuineness of the will, and the Court of Wards ignored it. Mr. Caspers, an experienced Deputy Collector, was temporarily appointed to take charge of the estate. Shortly after Mr. J. Forlong, a well known Indigo-planter of East Bengal, was appointed manager and guardian. On joining his appointment "he found everything in the utmost confusion, but at once zealously devoted himself to the task of clearing up old accounts, paying up old debts, improving the property, and carefully watching over and educating the wards." In 1865 when Mr. Forlong took furlough, Mr. G. Anderson of the Kumtoul factory, was appointed his *locum tenans*. In 1868 Mr. Forlong died on his way to England, and was succeeded by Colonel J. Burn, who held the appointment up to the close of the minority. In March 1876 he took 20 months' furlough, and during his absence Major R. C. Money officiated as manager. During the latter's incumbency several changes were introduced into the management of the estate, of which I shall speak further on. In 1867 it was found necessary to appoint an assistant manager to take charge of the mofsusil work, and Mr. G. Llewhellin was selected for the post. This gentleman held this appointment till the release of the estate. The estates in Purneah were managed by an Assistant Manager, Mr. J. M. McQueen, acting under the general manager at Durbhunga. From 1871 to the date of the release of the estate the appointment was held by this gentleman. The Khurruckpore estate was originally in charge of a native surbarakar, who continued in office till 1862-63, when a European officer was appointed in his place. From 1874 to the end of the minority the estate was managed by Mr. Assistant Manager H. O. King.

7. Previous to assumption of the charge by the Court of Wards the ticcadari system prevailed throughout the estate. All the villages were leased to ticcadars. The amlah, into whose hands the management of the estate was committed, gave some of the leases to their friends and dependants on exceedingly favourable terms, while the rest were given to outsiders for sums much above their value, the lessees never intending to pay up, but trying to collect what they could from the ryots by rack-renting and levying illegal cesses. The payment of a portion of the rent in advance as a security was not insisted upon and pottahs and kabulyats were seldom exchanged. The result was that the books showed a high rental, but only a small portion of it was ever realized. The ticcadars were always in arrear and in most cases were men of straw, from whom nothing could be recovered.

8. When the Court of Wards assumed charge great dfficulty was felt in ascertaining the correct rental of the villages, as the putwaris' papers were scarcely ever forthcoming, and where forthcoming, were wholly unreliable. Under such circumstances it was simply impossible to attempt to bring the estate under direct management. As the only alternative left, Mr. Forlong had to adopt the objectionable system of reletting the villages to the highest bidders. In course of time, as the village papers were being filed and tested, the more objectionable features of the system were removed, and leases were given to men of respectability and character on fair terms, which left a margin of 20 per cent. of the rental for cost of collection and profit. A condition was inserted in the leases to the effect that the ticcadars were not to enhance rent without sanction of the Court of Wards; they were also required to file jummabundi papers. Notwithstanding all the precautions taken, the ticcadari system proved injurious to the interests of the ryots and the proprietor. The ticcadars oppressed the ryots, levied illegal cesses, and sometimes reduced the rates to the prejudice of the proprietor, with a view to serve their own purposes. The system, however, continued till 1872, when Sir George Campbell abolished it, and issued orders to hold all villages under direct management. As the leases fell in no fresh leases were given, and gradually all the villages were brought under khas management. A staff of tehsildars and naib teshildars, with mohurirs under them, was organised to collect rent. These men worked under the immediate supervision of the Assistant Manager. The plan, however, did not succeed. The tehsildars and naib tehsildars were generally corrupt, they oppressed the ryots, and made illegal exactions.

9. In 1876 my predecessor, Mr. Metcalfe, after consulting the Officiating Manager Major Money, recommended the abolition of the tehsildary system, and proposed in its stead the appointment of a respectable class of officers, to be styled sub-managers, on a salary of Rs. 300 per mensem, who were to make collections direct from the ryots within their respective circles. The proposed arrangement was provisionally sanctioned by the Board of Revenue, and being found to work well, was permanently adopted. The Tirhoot and Bhagulpore portion of the property was originally divided into four, and finally into eight, circles, each under a sub-manager, with an adequate office establishment. Under the supervision of the General Manager and Assistant Manager, the sub-managers performed all the duties connected with the management of the estates within their circles. The actual collections were made by jeyt ryots, who remitted them to the sub-managers. All cases of oppression and malpractices of the jeyt ryots and putwaris were promptly enquired into by the sub-managers on the spot, and the grievances of the ryots redressed. Formerly putwaris were allowed to make collections, but this has been stopped, and their duties have been confined simply to the keeping of accounts. The system of collections through the jeyt ryots is a very old one and has generally been found to answer well. The system, however, had to be thoroughly revised and the number of jeyt ryots considerably reduced, only efficient men who are able and willing to do the work being retained. Formerly these men were allowed to hold lands at low rents in consideration of the services performed by them. This arrangement, which was objectionable on more than one ground, has been done away with, and all jeyt ryots are now charged at full rates;—they are now remunerated by a commission of three per cent. on the collections. The putwaris as a class are described by Colonel Burn as corrupt, dishonest, and most obstructive in working out the present system. Example has been made of some of these men who were detected in their malpractices by dismissal or criminal prosecution.

10. The Dhurmpore estate in Purneah is divided into three parts called zillahs, viz. Gondwara, Birnuggur and Bhowanipore. The two last zillahs are subject to destructive inundations of the Koosi river, which brings down vast volumes of sand from the hills and spreads it over the surface of the country, destroying the productive powers of the land. In consequence of the destructive influence of the river, the rents are collected on the *hal hasil* system, under which rent is assessed on the crop which may happen to be grown on the land, and not on the quality of the soil. The estate was much neglected by the former Maharajahs, who, under a peculiar prejudice, considered it unlucky to cross the Koosi. The collections were left in the hands of the underlings, who sought their own profit at the expense of the raj. In almost every village the best lands were allowed to be held at low rents or *kumshara* by the fraud and collusion of the farmers and ryots. There are also many *istumrari* tenures held at very low rents; under these circumstances this estate has never yielded much profit,—in fact it hardly paid its way. When the direct system of management was first introduced in the estate in 1871, it did not work well, the collections being very poor. This was owing chiefly to the difficulty experienced by a newly appointed manager in organising a collecting establishment and in ascertaining the correct jummabundi of the villages, the putwaris' papers being mostly incorrect, and also the fact that the new system was introduced after three years' most destructive inundation of the Koosi river. These difficulties have disappeared, and the collections

are now as good as when the ticcadari system prevailed. The present Maharajah has visited the estate, and it is hoped he will take an interest in its management.

11. The Khurruckpore estate in Monghyr comprises an area of 150 square miles, consisting chiefly of hills and jungles. When the Court of Wards took charge, the estate was in charge of a native surbarakar, who continued in office till 1862-63, when a European officer was appointed in his place. In 1865 the estate was surveyed and settled by an ex-Deputy Collector. After completion of the work, the estate was leased to one Mr. Grant for five years, on the express stipulation that he was not to interfere with the settlement. In 1869 a project for irrigating the estate was submitted and approved. The works were commenced in June 1870 and completed in November 1876.

12. In consequence of the benefits accruing to the ryots from the irrigation works the rents of the lands were enhanced. Certain litigious head ryots made great opposition to the enhancement, but the Assistant Manager Mr. King has succeeded in establishing the rights of the Maharajah.

13. When the estate was taken in charge the total rent-roll was Rs. 16,39,357. The Court of Wards has, under careful management, succeeded in raising it to Rs. 21,61,885.

14. During the Courts' management extensive and important public works have been undertaken. The works may be classed under three heads—(1) reproductive works; (2) works of public utility permanently benefiting the estate, but bringing in no direct return on the outlay; (3) domestic improvements.

15. The most important reproductive works are the irrigation works in Khurruckpore, constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,09,983, and bringing 3·6 per cent. on the outlay, and the Maharajgunge Bazar, erected at a cost of Rs. 2,63,743. The latter work was undertaken as a reproductive work and also as a desirable improvement to the neighbourhood, forming as it does the main approach to the palace grounds. A part of the buildings forms a public serai, which is to be open to all travellers, and a portion is occupied by the Raj Band. The portion of the buildings rented by shopkeepers cost a little over a lakh, and yields 4·3 per cent. on the outlay. The extensive irrigation works were commenced in June 1870 and completed in November 1876. These works have greatly benefited this portion of the estate by affording facilities for irrigation. Were it not for these works, the aghani crops of 1876, 1877, and 1878 would have failed, and the ryots in consequence would have been subjected to severe distress. The increased rental on the actual irrigable area amounts to Rs. 23,485, which gives a percentage of 3¾ on the outlay.

16. The chief works of public utility are the roads, bridges, culverts and iron screw-pile viaducts constructed all over the estate. Before the Court assumed the management, there were scarcely any roads worth the name, and consequently in the rainy season there could be no traffic between the different parts of the estate.

17. During the management main roads extending over 150 miles were constructed and bridged all over the estate, and feeder and village roads made or improved, thus enabling the tenantry to dispose of their produce to advantage at distant markets. The works have cost 25 lakhs.

18. All roads constructed by the estate have been made over to the Road Cess Committee, the right to the iron bridges being reserved to the estate.

19. The domestic improvements include the additions and alterations to the palace, the laying out of gardens, and the construction of several buildings in Durbhunga and Mozufferpore. When the estate came under management the palace was surrounded with jungle, unsightly huts, stagnant ponds, foul vegetation and dirt, which made the place so unhealthy that it was said that cholera and other epidemic diseases generally took their origin in the palace. All this has now been changed. The grounds around the palace have been cleared, and a beautiful garden carefully laid out surrounds the building. The garden has good metalled roads, a fernery and orchid house, ornamental pieces of water overshadowed by weeping willows, a racquet court with adjoining billiard-room and bath, a deer park, and a bathing pavilion for the ladies of the family. The present sanitary condition of the palace is all that could be desired. Many of the old and dilapidated buildings comprising the palace were pulled down, and more suitable buildings erected in their place. All these, however, except the apartments occupied by the dowager Maharani, were pulled down in order that a new palace might be erected in their place. Designs for the new palace were prepared and approved, the estimate amounting to over eight lakhs. While arrangements for commencing the work were being made, orders were received to abandon the project, the Advocate-General having expressed an opinion that the Court of Wards could not legally undertake such an expensive work, and that any contract entered into for the construction of the building would not be binding on the Maharajah on his attaining his majority. The work has accordingly been abandoned. Some distance from the old palace stands the Maharajah's present residence at Anund Bagh, a handsome building, furnished with elegance and taste. Close by are the magnificent range of stables, coach-houses and syces' barracks; not far off are the band-stand, the school-house, the hospital, the menagerie, dog kennel, &c.

20. The total outlay on public works amounted to nearly 55 lakhs.

21. For the construction of these works a large engineering establishment under a Superintending Engineer, had to be maintained. In 1877, however, the establishment was greatly reduced, the services of the Superintending Engineer, Mr. Stevens, were dispensed with, and one by one the engineers in charge of the different divisions of the estate were discharged; and only one engineer, Mr. Gough, was retained to superintend the works then in progress or about to be put in hand. The cost of the establishment was thus reduced from Rs. 5,730 to Rs. 1,919 per mensem. In the same year Mr. Billings, Deputy Examiner of Public Works

Accounts, was deputed to examine the accounts. This officer succeeded in pointing out certain irregularities in the keeping of the accounts, but it is only fair to Mr. Stevens to state that he has been able to account satisfactorily for the expenditure shown in his accounts.

22. From 1st April 1875 the accounts of the Raj Public Works Department were submitted to, and audited by, the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

23. The matter of the education of the Maharajah and his brother received due attention from the beginning. In 1866 Mr. Macnaughten, a gentleman whose high acquirements and character eminently qualified him for the post, was appointed their tutor and he continued to hold the appointment till the end of 1870, when he resigned. He was succeeded by Mr. Alexander, who completed their education. With a view to remove the wards from the influence of the zenana, they were taken to Benares, where they lived some years with their tutor and attended the college; during vacations they used to travel about, and visited Cashmere, the Punjab, Bombay, and other places of note. They have received a very fair English education. They read and write English well and are well up in English literature. They can ride and play racquets, billiards, and other European games.

24. The Maharajah's brother, Kumar Rameshwar Singh, on his completing his 18th year, was specially selected by Government for appointment to the Covenanted Civil Service.

25. During the last two or three years of his minority the Maharajah was thoroughly instructed in the management of his estates and was placed in immediate charge of a portion of the property. He took much interest in the affairs of his estate and showed considerable aptitude for business. He has made himself thoroughly conversant with the system of mofussil records and accounts.

26. At the durbar held at Bankipore on 25th September last for the installation of the Maharajah, Sir Steuart Bayley, then Lieutenant-Governor, remarked that the Maharajah's abilities, manners, accomplishment, and personal character eminently fit him for the high position he was destined to fill.

27. The Court of Wards may fairly congratulate itself on the success which has attended its efforts to give the Mahrajah an education worthy of his position.

28. When the Court took charge of the property there was not a school or *patshala* in the estate. In 1863 an anglo-vernacular school was opened at Durbhunga by the late Mr. Furlong. The school imparts elementary education in English and vernacular. In accordance with the wishes of the family no fee is levied from the pupils. The boys used to be taught up to the minor scholarship examination standard, but recently the status of the school has been raised to that of a higher class English school, and it will now prepare students for the University Entrance Examination. At the express wish of the Maharajah a Sanskrit Department has lately been opened, where pupils are instructed in literature, grammar, logic, and the Vedas.

29. In 1868 twenty-six vernacular middle class schools were established for the education of the children of the ryots. Subsequently the number of the schools was reduced to 20, and for their supervision a Deputy Inspector of Schools was appointed. These schools teach up to the middle vernacular scholarship examination. The total number of boys now attending these schools is 1,000.

30. Besides supporting these schools, the Raj contributes liberally to several Government aided schools. The total expenditure by the Raj in education is about Rs. 25,000 a year.

31. The Raj supports three dispensaries, at Durbhunga, Naraya, and Khurruckpore. The Durbhunga dispensary has become a very popular and useful institution. The hospital building is very commodious and comfortable, and is capable of accommodating 40 in-door patients. The dispensary is under the charge of an Assistant Surgeon, and the establishment is kept up at a cost of Rs. 9,000 per annum.

32. The Naraya dispensary has been recently established and promises to be a useful institution. It is under the charge of a native doctor, and the cost of establishment is about Rs. 900 per annum.

33. The Khurruckpore dispensary is a popular institution. It is under the charge of a native doctor, and the cost is Rs. 2,000 per annum.

34. The Raj also makes liberal contributions to several other dispensaries. The total expenditure incurred by the estate on account of dispensaries is Rs. 12,000 a year.

35. During the period of the Court's management the estate has had to contend with several seasons of drought. In 1864 the rice crop, which is the chief produce of the district, failed to the extent of nearly one-half, and the price of rice rose to 12 seers per rupee, considerable pressure was in consequence felt by the lower classes. The next year the prospects were still more gloomy. The prices of rice and Indian-corn rose to three times their normal rates, and the distress of course was great. Unfortunately adequate measures of relief were not organised, and the consequence was great mortality and extensive desertion among the poorer class of ryots. Then came the famine of 1874, which would have depopulated the estate had not extensive measures of relief been organised by Government. Extensive works of public utility were opened, immense quantities of grain were purchased and sold at low prices, loans were freely given to ryots, and large remissions of rent made. The total amount expended by the raj was 35½ lakhs. The success of these measures was signal, and the consequence was that there was actually less mortality among the tenantry than in ordinary years. In 1876, again, there was a partial failure of the aghani crop in the pergunnahs of Allapore and Naridigurh, and the poorer classes felt the scarcity decidedly. Adequate measures, however, were promptly adopted to relieve distress. The total amount expended by the estate on this occasion was 2¼ lakhs.

36. The matter of making a survey of the estate received much attention from the Court of Wards in the latter part of its management. At first it was proposed to make a detailed survey of the whole estate, beginning with Tirhoot; subsequently this idea was abandoned, and it was decided only to survey the Dhurmpore estate in Purneah. Mr. Jones was deputed to conduct the survey, and a party of surveyors, consisting of a Deputy Collector, six peshkars, and a number of ameens, was organised in August 1872. In February 1873 Mr. Jones made over charge to Mr. Hewitt, Deputy Commissioner of Wards' Estates, under whose supervision the field operations commenced. The survey was completed in December 1874. The following maps and papers were prepared :—

(1.)—Boundary maps.
(2.)—Village maps.
(3.)—Maps of the village sites and khusra khanasumari.
(4.)—Khatiani of the chittas and assamiwar terij.
(5.)—Village statistics.

The total number of villages surveyed was 294 and their area was found to be 449,106 acres. This area comprised 34,825 acres of milik or rent-free land, 55,895 acres waste or land unfit for cultivation, and 358,386 liable to assessment. Of the last mentioned area, 200,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation, and 130,000 culturable, and 28,000 acres occupied by mango and bamboo groves, thatching grass, and grazing land. The total rent-roll of the estate is Rs. 2,05,236, and this gives an assessment of only Re. 1 per acre,—a rate which is very low indeed. The total cost of the survey was Rs. 56,000.

37. In consequence of the drought of 1875 affecting the pergunnahs of Allapore and Naridigurh, a Commission was appointed to report on the prospects of the crops and the condition of the people generally in those parts. The Commission, which was composed of two members of the Civil Service, Messrs. Geddes and Macdonnell, reported "that a large number of the tenantry had fled from their homes to avoid the burden of debt, due to enhanced rent, which lay upon them too heavily, and to escape from importunities of rent-receivers and the oppressive and never-ending exactions of underlings." Under these circumstances it was decided that a resettlement of holdings and a revision of rates should be made in Allapore, and Mr. Finucane, C.S., was appointed to take charge of the work. The survey was begun in March 1876 and completed in April 1877. The area of the villages surveyed was 1,57,737 acres, comprising 322 mouzahs. It is significant to note that the re-adjustment of rents resulted in an increase of rental amounting to over Rs. 9,300. The increase is owing to (1) assessment of excess lands held by putwaris and jeyt ryots, (2) assessment of fallow lands brought under cultivation, and (3) a more accurate adjustment of rent of groves and bhawli lands. The cost of the survey was Rs. 45,228, or 4 annas 2 pie per acre.

38. On the completion of the survey, pottahs and kabulyats were interchanged with the ryots. Up to 31st March 1879 pottahs for a term of four years, printed on plain paper, were issued, agricultural leases and their counterparts being under the former law exempt from stamp duty. But as the new law, which took effect from 1st April last, made agricultural leases for more than a year liable to stamp duty and the ryots were unwilling to bear the cost of stamp in addition to registration and copying fees, it was decided to discontinue the issue of four-year leases, and to issue annual leases instead. The total number of pottahs issued was 20,673 and the cost was Rs. 10,860.

39. After the completion of the settlement of Allapore, a resettlement of the indigo *zerait* lands was made. The *zerait* lands in the possession of the Pandowl factory were first settled. The lands were surveyed and their rents re-adjusted. Lands falling beyond 40 poles or luggas of the homestead of any village were settled with the factory, while those falling within 40 poles were settled with the ryots. This had the effect of freeing the ryots from the annoyance entailed by the cultivation of indigo close to their doors. In order to make the ryots entirely independent of the factory, the raj bought over for a consideration all the claims of the factory against the ryots. A lease of the *zerait* lands for four years was given to the factory. It is satisfactory to observe that the resettlement of the Pandowl *zerait* lands resulted in an increase of rental of Rs. 7,000. The *zerait* lands of other factories were also settled on the same principle.

40. The Manager observes that "the settlement of indigo *zeraits*, while resulting in an increased rental to the Raj, has placed the cultivation of indigo on these estates on an entirely satisfactory basis. The ryots are now completely independent of factory influence, all friction between them and factory people has ceased, and, under these circumstances, the cultivation of indigo on the Maharajah's estates cannot be other than beneficial." In these remarks I fully concur.

41. During the progress of the survey and settlement of Allapore, the late Officiating Manager, Major Money, proposed that a similar survey and revision of rent should be undertaken for the whole estate. The proposal was at first disapproved by the Bengal Government, on the ground that it was not expedient to undertake a cadastral survey and resettlement of the holdings just before the close of the minority, and the Government refused to sanction the scheme unless the Maharajah specially desired that such a survey should be undertaken. Upon this the Maharajah addressed a letter to Government, in which he expressed his special desire to have the estate surveyed by the Court of Wards. The Bengal Government then assented to the proposal and obtained the sanction of the Government of India. The orders of the Government, however, directed that no attempt should be made to revise the rates, but the

operations should be confined to a cadastral survey and a record of rates actually paid, it being left to the Maharajah to revise the rates on attaining his majority.

42. Mr. Finucane was entrusted with the work, and three survey parties took the field under his supervision. The operations commenced in March 1878 and closed in July 1879. Notwithstanding the obstacles thrown on the way by putwaris and jeyt ryots, who apprehended that an exact record of the holdings and the rates paid by the ryots would put a stop to their illegal gains, the work progressed satisfactorily, and when the operations were closed, the survey of Naridigurh, Koryah, Jhanjhurpore and Rohika circles was completed. The total area surveyed is 4,16,223 bighas, or 3,97,726 acres. The results of the survey as compared with putwaris' papers are given below:—

	Cultivated and rent-paying.	Not cultivated but rent-paying.	Lakhiraj.	Non-cultivated but culturable.	Non-culturable.	Total.
According to survey	261,596	30,813	33,107	49,127	41,579	416,222
Ditto to putwaris' papers	242,525	22,185	29,197	60,493	37,721	392,121
Increase	19,071	8,628	3,910	.....	3,858	24,101
Decrease	.....	.....	.....	11,366	.....	.....

Thus it will be seen that the survey has resulted in an increase of 27,699 bighas in rent-paying area and 3,910 bighas in lakhiraj area, total 31,609 bighas. The Manager shows that if this area be assessed at the average rate of Rs. 4 per bigha, there would be an increase in the rental amounting to Rs. 1,24,000, which is 72 per cent. of the cost of the survey. The total cost of the survey and settlement carried on under Mr. Finucane's supervision in Tirhoot and Bhagulpore, including Allapore, is as follows:—

	Rs.
Allapore circle	45,228
Korya, Rohika, Jhanjhurpore and Naridigurh	1,72,543
Total ...	2,17,771

This gives an average of annas 6-1 per acre.

43. On the estate being brought under management several suits were brought against the Court of Wards for recovery of money lent to the late Maharajah, and for price of jewellery, goods, &c., supplied to him. In most of these cases the amount claimed was far in excess of the sum actually due, and the suits generally ended in partial decrees, or reduction of claims by compromise. The most important of these cases were those instituted by Syed Lootfali and others, heirs of the late Syed Abdulla of Patna, who laid their claim at Rs. 5,36,796. These cases were decided against the Raj. A few cases were instituted against the Court of Wards for setting aside sale of certain properties purchased in execution of decrees. These cases generally were decided in favour of the Raj.

44. In 1866 the Raj instituted a suit against certain persons for *zurdusturat*, or the right to levy certain cessess on the basis of a perwannah of the Provincial Court of Patna, dated 24th February 1780. The lower court gave a decree which was reversed on appeal. It appears that the aforesaid perwannah was granted to Maharajah Madho Sing for services rendered by him as an amil to the Mahomedan Government. It did not convey a hereditary title to levy *dusturat*. Under the circumstance no suit of the kind was again instituted.

45. The most important suit in which the Raj has been a party is that instituted by Rajah Lillanund Sing, claiming a vast tract of jungle land comprising most of the bunker and boondi mehals in Khurruckpore with mesne profits. The case has been before the Privy Council several times and is still pending there. Their Lordships have declared that the plaintiff is entitled to two villages, Goormaha and Ghorakhur. The decision of the Privy Council has reduced the area of the Khurruckpore estate from 190 to 150 square miles. Attempts were made to compromise the case, but without success.

46. In 1878-79 two important suits were instituted by the Raj against Baboos Giridhari Singh and Doorga Dutt Singh of Mudhubunny, who are relatives of the Maharajah. The facts are these. The Baboos being in urgent need of money, to save their property from sale in execution of decrees, applied to the Court of Wards for assistance, and offered to sell a portion of their estate. Certain villages were accordingly purchased for Rs. 14,72,000, being 25 years' purchase of the alleged rental. As there was no time to enquire into the rental, the papers submitted by the Baboos were accepted, but to imdemnify the Raj for any loss, they executed an agreement, binding themselves to refund a portion of the purchase-money if the rent-roll should be found less than what was alleged. After the purchase careful enquiry was made into the rent-roll, and it was found that the correct rental was only Rs. 32,401, and not Rs. 58,915 as alleged. The Baboos were called upon to refund a portion of the purchase-money as stipulated, and on their failing to do so, suits have been instituted against them, the amount claimed being Rs. 8,61,000 with interest.

47. The total number of suits in which the Raj was involved in the Tirhoot portion of the estate was 4,080, out of which 1,131 were civil suits, 2,728 rent suits, and 221 miscellaneous suits. Out of this number 3,136 were decided in favour of the Raj, 270 were settled by compromise, 62 withdrawn, and 411 decided against the Raj, and 201 were pending at the close of the minority. This result is satisfactory.

48. The total amount of civil suit decrees obtained by the Court of Wards in Tirhoot was Rs. 4,79,128, out of which Rs. 3,05,153, or 63·7 per cent. was recovered, Rs. 66,829 remittted, and Rs. 1,07,146, the balance, remained outstanding. The amount of rent suit decrees in the same portion of the estate was Rs. 44,61,859, out of which Rs. 18,74,512, or 42 per cent., was recovered, Rs. 18,53,019 remitted, and Rs. 7,34,328 remained unrealized. This result cannot be deemed satisfactory I fear.

49. In the Dhurmpore estate the amount of decrees obtained from 1871-72 to September last was Rs. 1,02,677, out of which Rs. 72,160, or 70·4 per cent. was realised, Rs. 23,749 remitted, and Rs. 6,768 left outstanding.

50. In the Khurruckpore estate the total amount of decrees was Rs. 5,39,460, out of which Rs. 2,11,168 was recovered, Rs. 2,90,678 remitted, and Rs. 37,614 left outstanding. The percentage of realization was only 39·1, which is not satisfactory.

51. When the estate was brought under management it was burdened with debts amounting to the enormous sum of a crore of rupees; of this sum 72 lakhs were accepted by the Court of Wards and paid off in the course of five years. It is observed that the ticcadari system, under which a six months' rent in advance is taken as security at the time of giving the lease, enabled these debts to be cleared off soon. The arrears of rent due to the estate at the time it came under the Court of Wards amounted to Rs. 56,44,972, upon which decrees were obtained for Rs. 37,05,940. Out of this sum Rs. 20,79,045 was recovered.

52. After all the debts had been cleared, the surplus proceeds began to be invested in Government securities and landed property. In 1873-74 the investment in promissory notes amounted to 56 lakhs, but the following year notes for 32 lakhs were sold to meet charges for famine relief. Large investments were again made during the last two years of the management, and at the close of the minority Government securities for Rs. 38,54,500 were made over to the Maharajah.

53. A sum of 16 lakhs was invested in the purchase of landed property, the most important property purchased being the estates of the Mudhoobunni Baboos, to which reference has already been made.

54. It cannot but be deemed highly satisfactory that after paying off the heavy liabilities, meeting the heavy famine expenditure, and making large remissions of rent, the Court of Wards has been able to make such large investments.

55. The total demand for the whole period of the Court's management was Rs. 4,26,79,578, out of which Rs. 3,54,66,458* was collected, Rs. 55,39,610 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 18,51,397* unrealized. The percentage of collections on the demand was 83,—a result which may be looked upon as satisfactory. Of the balance, which is less than a year's demand, a portion is simply irrecoverable, being due from persons who are paupers; a portion is disputed, being due to improper measurements; and a portion is due from ryots who are either dead or have absconded without leaving any property, or are too poor to pay.

56. The collections on account of cesses in the Tirhoot and Nariddigur portion have been very unsatisfactory. The raj had to pay Rs. 3,55,993, while the amount collected from the ryots was only Rs. 80,763. In explanation of this poor result it is stated that the ryots put off payment of the cesses till they had paid up their rent, and besides this, difficulty is felt in recovering the cesses from the relatives of the Maharajah, to whom villages have been assigned for maintenance. In Khurruckpore the collections were fair; the demand was Rs. 8,624, out of which Rs. 7,708 was collected and Rs. 243 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 673. In Dhurrumpore the demand was Rs. 50,323, of which Rs. 19,564 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 30,759.

57. A sum of Rs. 5,80,270 was advanced on account of tuccavi, out of which Rs. 4,11,943 were realized and Rs. 44,147 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,24,180 in course of realization.

58. The general results of the management may be summarized as follows:—

(*a*)—The gross rental of the estate when taken in charge was Rs. 16,39,357, but at the close of the management it stood at Rs. 21,61,885. The net increase in the rent-roll during the Court of Ward's management amounted to Rs. 5,22,528.

(*b*)—The Court assumed charge of the estate with an arrear balance of Rs. 56,44,972 and made it over to the proprietor, with an outstanding balance of Rs. 18,51,397,* a considerable portion of which has been reported as good and in process of recovery.

(*c*)—The debts due to the estate when it was taken in charge, were Rs. 3,37,775, which was reduced to Rs. 1,40,576 when the estate was released.

(*d*)—The debts due by the estate when taken in charge amounted to about a crore, out of which Rs. 71,88,427 was accepted. At the time of making over the property to the Maharajah they had been reduced to nil.

(*e*)—The estate is shown as having been worth Rs. 1,92,22,884 when taken over, and Rs. 2,88,67,830 when the management was resigned. This increase is due to a net increase of Rs. 5,22,528 in the rent-roll, and the investment of surplus receipts in Government securities and landed property.

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* See note to column 13 of Table I at page 41 of the Manager's report.

(*f*)—The arrears of rent at the date of assumption of charge were Rs. 56,44,972, the aggregate demand during the time the estate was under Government management was Rs. 3,70,34,606—total Rs. 4,26,79,578. Of this, Rs. 3,54,66,458, or 83 per cent. was collected, Rs. 55,39,610 remitted, and the arrears of rent when the estate was released were Rs. 18,51,397, of which Rs. 14,51,664 is reported as good and in process of recovery, and the rest bad and doubtful.

(*g*)—The total receipts during the management were Rs. 4,84,50,669, of which Rs. 3,54,66,457 represents rent collections, and the rest receipts from other sources. The total disbursements, together with what was invested in Government securities, &c., were Rs. 4,80,86,228, of which Rs. 32,90,934, or only 6·7 per cent. of the total receipts represents the cost of management, Rs. 80,41,113 was expended in payment of Government revenue, and the allowance of the proprietors and family, including social and religious ceremonies, amounted to Rs. 31,98,000, or only 6·5 per cent. of the total receipts.

(*h*)—The estate came to the hands of the Court of Wards with a cash balance of Rs. 3,721, and it was made over to the Maharajah with a cash balance of Rs. 2,75,733 and Government securities of the value of Rs. 38,54,500.

59. In conclusion, I think the Court of Wards may fairly congratulate itself on the result of its management of this magnificent estate. The Court received the property encumbered with debts amounting to a crore of rupees, and made it over to the Maharajah free from all encumbrances, with a surplus of over 40 lakhs, mostly invested in Government securities. When the estate was taken in charge, the rent-roll was Rs. 16,39,357, now it is over 21½ lakhs. The Court of Wards has constructed extensive public works which have permanently benefited the estate, and has established several schools and dispensaries for the benefit of the tenantry. Above all, it has given to the Maharajah and his younger brother an education of which they may justly be proud.

60. It does not appear necessary in this report to repeat the opinions recorded by various Commissioners and Collectors of the qualifications of the several Managers and other officers under the Court of Wards who have held appointments during the long period of the minority of the Maharajah. The record of all this will be found in the annual reports submitted periodically. I may, however, bring to the Board's notice the recent remarks of Sir Stuart Bayley, Officiating Lieutenant- Governor, to the Government of India, in replacing at their disposal the services of Colonel Burn :—" Sir Stuart Bayley desires me to express his high sense of the excellent service rendered by Colonel Burn during the long term of his incumbency."

J. A. R.—Reg. No. 4363J.—148—30-7-80.

No. 514.

FROM COLONEL JAMES BURN,

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga,

TO THE COLLECTOR OF DURBHUNGA.

Dated Durbhunga, the 13th December 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the final report* of the Durbhunga estate, together with return No. 31, prepared according to the instructions laid down at a conference† held at Durbhunga on the 30th September last, showing year by year the gross total demand, realizations, and outstanding balances for the whole estate.

2. The compilation of the statement was unavoidably delayed owing to the delay in the receipt of statements in proper form from Purneah and Khurruckpore. The Purneah return was received only on 15th November last.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. BURN, COLONEL,

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

* With five spare copies including one to be made over to Maharajah.

PRESENT:

† His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.
C. T. Metcalfe, Esq., Officiating Commissioner.
Colonel J. Burn, Manager, Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.
M. Finucane, Esq., Manager, Raj Durbhunga.
E. R. Henry, Esq, Private Secretary to His Honor.
The Maharajah of Durbhunga.

Memo. No. 1649W.

FORWARDED to the Commissioner of Patna for information.

DURBHUNGA COLLECTORATE,
The 16th December 1879.

H. LEE,
For Offg. Collector.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DURBHUNGA RAJ

BY THE COURT OF WARDS

From November 1860 to 30th September 1879.

CHAPTER I.

THE Durbhunga Family trace their origin to Mohesh Thakoor, who migrated from Murhla near Jubbulpore to Tirhoot early in the sixteenth century. He took service as a family priest under the ancient Rajahs of Tirhoot, descendants of Sheo Singh.

2. After Tirhoot was conquered, and the race of that Prince became extinct, Mohesh Thakoor sent a pupil of his, Rughunundun Thakoor, to Delhi, where in course of polemical discussions he so gained the good-will of the enlightened Akbar the Great, that that monarch offered him the Tirhoot Raj, and ultimately consented to its transfer to Mohesh Thakoor.

3. The caste of the family is Sarotiya, commonly called Sotee, and the Maharajah for the time being is looked upon as the head of all the Mithila Brahmins of this part of India.

4. Mohesh Thakoor died in A.D. 1558, leaving five sons, from the youngest of whom, Subhankur Thakoor, who died in A.D. 1607, the present Maharajah is descended.

5. Raghu Singh, who succeeded in A.D. 1700, was the first of the family to whom the title of Rajah was properly confirmed, and by large presents he obtained from the Nawab Mahabut Jung the perpetual lease of Sarkar Tirhoot at an annual rent of one lakh of rupees, the revenue of which had in 1685 been returned at Rs. 7,69,287. Family disputes ensued, and disclosures made to the Nawab brought him to Tirhoot; Raghu Singh fled, but his property was seized and his family carried off as prisoners to Patna. Eventually a compromise was made with Raghu Singh, who was allowed to return as a mere revenue collector, and to hold a few villages rent-free, on condition that "he should do justice, relieve distress, and put the country in a flourishing condition." He appears to have fulfilled these conditions till he died in 1736. His son, Bishun Singh, succeeded him, and died without issue in 1740: he was succeeded by his brother, Narendra Singh, to whom in 1754 the Nawab Ali Vardi Khan granted the dustoorat, which then consisted of the serehdih or levy of Rs. 1-8 on each asl mouzah, one anna per rupee of each kabulyat, and mali khana or 10 per cent on his own zemindari. Narendra Singh, having no issue, adopted his relative Protap Singh, who was directly descended from Subhankur Thakoor.

6. At this time the family resided at Bhawarah near Mudhoobuni, but Protap Singh in 1762 established the family residence at Durbhunga.

7. In 1772 the Nankar lands, the dustoorat, and the malikhana were resumed by the British Government, ten villages being left for subsistence to Narendra Singh's widow, two to Madhoo Singh, Protap Singh's brother, and Rs. 12,000 per annum granted to Protap Singh, who died childless in 1776 and was succeeded by his brother, who did not stand well with the local authorities and was for a time deprived of nearly all his assumed privileges. Ultimately, after various vicissitudes, the settlement was concluded with him for Rs. 1,58,227, less Rs. 6,174 for his mukarari. He died in 1808 and was succeeded by his second son Chutter Singh, who was the first who received the title of Maharajah. He was a clever man and looked well after his property, and, when moribund in 1839, made it over to his eldest son Rudra Singh, assigning the Raj villages in pergunnah Jerrail to his younger son Basdeo Singh for maintenance. The latter was not contented with this disposition of the property, and contested his claim to half of the Raj before the Sessions and High Courts, who decided that family custom (kooláchár) established the right of the elder brother to the Raj, the younger to maintenance grant only. Rudra Singh died in 1850, leaving four sons, Maheshwar Singh who succeeded him, Guneshwar Singh to whom he had assigned pergunnah Pururee, Nitreshwar Singh to whom he had assigned pergunnah Nisunkpore Koorah, and Gopeshwar Singh to whom he had assigned pergunnah Ahis as maintenance. Moheshwar Singh died of fever after a short illness on the 20th October 1860, leaving one daughter, Rajeshuree Daee, and two sons, Luchmeshwar Singh and Rameshwar Singh, and as these were minors, the Court of Wards took charge of the estate under the provisions of Regulation X of 1793.

8. The daughter married in March 1863 and died on the 18th August 1874, leaving one girl, who has been brought up by her grandmother, the Dowager Maharanee. Rameshwar Singh was released from the guardianship of the Court of Wards on the 18th January 1878 on attaining the age of 18. Luchmeshwar Singh, under the Vizianagram Act IX of 1875, attained his majority on his 21st birthday on the 25th September last, was granted the personal distinction of Maharajah by order of the Government of India, No. 1276 of 2nd idem, was duly installed with all honors in Durbar at Bankipore on his brithday by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and his estates and all property, moveable and immoveable, were formally made over to him at Durbhunga on the 1st October by the undersigned. Returns of the former, and lists duly receipted of all moveable and house property, were made over to the Maharajah on same date, and copies submitted to the Court of Wards.

9. When Chutter Singh died in 1839, he left a rent-roll of 13 lakhs, and it is generally believed that he also left nearly 100 lakhs in cash, buried in his palace. It seems clear, however, that this buried money brought no good to his heir, who was either robbed of it, or was unable to find its place of concealment. Rudra Singh did not inherit his father's business habits, was extravagant, got into debt, and when he died left a nominal rent-roll of 11 lakhs. He bought considerable landed property in pergunnahs Buchour and Bhour shortly before his death, the revenue of which was only shown on the rent-roll after his son succeeded.

10. The late Maharajah Moheshwar Singh was a thorough gentleman, of an agreeable and too generous disposition, but indolent and quite incapable of looking after his estates; for the last three years of his life he gave up all attempt to do so, and left his affairs to the mercy of a corrupt amlah, supervised by a cousin Budreenath Jha. The consequence was that, though he had so large a nominal rent-roll, which by purchases had increased to 16½ lakhs at his demise, and paid only Rs. 4,07,484 as Government revenue, he had constantly to borrow to pay his Government kists and to meet current expenditure. There is little doubt that, had he lived a few years longer, nothing could have saved his estate from irretrievable bankruptcy.

11. His creditors' claims amounted to 100 lakhs, of which 72 were accepted as correct by the Court of Wards and have all been paid off. Against this there were claims for arrears of rent amounting to Rs. 56,44,972, for which decrees were in the course of a few years obtained for Rs. 37,05,940, only a portion of which, however, proved to be recoverable: the accounts show that, on decrees obtained for debts due to the late Maharajah, we have realized to date, including interest and costs, Rs. 20,79,045.

12. The nominal rent-roll when the Court of Wards assumed charge was Rs. 16,39,357. The total collections, including arrears during the first and second years of management, amounted respectively to Rs. 17,25,854 and Rs. 15,52,721. The current demand, after considerable reductions from time to time in villages found to have been over-assessed, is Rs. 21,61,885, and the collections, including arrears during the last two complete official years, amount respectively to Rs. 24,36,331 and Rs. 24,88,226. Besides extensive investments in lands and house property, to be hereafter noted in detail, there are now over 38½ lakhs to credit in Government 4 per cent. paper, and a cash balance of Rs. 2,75,733, and this despite three severe seasons of drought and the accruing loss of revenue and heavy expenditure on relief works, &c., all to be detailed in this report. The estate has to pay Government Rs. 4,34,848 per annum as revenue, Rs. 1,65,189 as road and provincial cesses, Rs. 2,186 on zemindari dâk account, and revenue payable to private proprietors Rs. 1,525—total Rs. 6,03,748.

13. The estate, comprising about 2,410 square miles, with a population of three-quarters of a million, is scattered over the districts of Durbhunga, Mozufferpore, Bhagulpore, Purneah, and Monghyr. It possesses house property in Durbhunga, Mozufferpore, Benares, Darjeeling, and Patna.

The Durbhunga and Mozufferpore portions of the estate have 1,183 mehals, of which 534 are *asli* and 649 *dakhili* in 46 pergunnahs in the sub-divisions of Durbhunga, Mudhoobunni, Tajpore, Seetamurhi and Hajipore. In the Bhagulpore district it owns 190 mehals in pergunnah Nareedigur, of which 146 are *asli* and 44 *dakhili*.

In Purneah it possesses nearly the whole of the large pergunnah of Dhurrumpore, and in Monghyr the pergunnah Havali Khurruckpore, the greate part of which consists of hills and jungle.

14. The bulk of the population is rural and agricultural: there are about ten Hindus to one Mahomedan, and of the former one in every nineteen is a high caste Brahmin.

CHAPTER II.

System of collection.

During the late Maharajah's time, the villages were all let out on lease, some for sums greatly below their value to friends or servants of the amla, while others were let to outsiders for sums far exceeding their assets, the lessees never intending to pay up, but rack-renting to any extent. By these latter leases the amla were able to show a high rent-roll on the books. The requisite security deposit was seldom taken, and pottahs and kabuliyats but rarely exchanged; hence the great difficulty on the Court of Wards assuming charge to ascertain the real jumma of the villages, as putwaries' papers were scarcely ever forthcoming. Consequently, during the first few years, as leases of villages expired, the Manager, the late Mr. Forlong, had to adopt the highly objectionable system of reletting them to those who made the highest offers,—an evil which was only rectified as the village papers could be found and tested with the ryots' holdings, when villages were leased out on fair terms to ticcadars, who were granted a reduction of 20 per cent. on the ascertained jummabndi for village expenses, cost of collection, and reasonable profit, and were bound down under penalty not to enhance any ryot's rate without the sanction of the Court of Wards. They were also bound to file their village jummabundi papers every year, but frequently failed to do so, and even when they did, it was often discovered that they were incorrect. One of very many such cases may be cited: the papers filed in this office for the village of Kokanaha in pergunnah Nareedigur, showed a jumma of Rs. 7,000. The Assistant Manager, Mr. Llewhellin, succeeded in finding the genuine village papers buried in the putwarie's house: these proved the real jumma to be over Rs. 11,000.

2. Despite all the precautions taken, the ticcadaree system proved most pernicious, the ticcadars oppressed the ryots, exacted illegal cesses from them, while often reducing the rates, thus injuring the future interests of the zemindar; but with the exception of the Panchmohulla property in Seetamurhi su-division, which was specially placed on seer or direct management under Mr. Llewhellin in 1866, the above system prevailed until 1872, when orders were received to hold all the estate khas as leases of villages

expired. A seer establishment was proposed by the Manager and the Commissioner, of native tehsildars and naib tehsildars under the supervision of European Assistant Managers, to reside in the mofussil; the latter part of the scheme was objected to by Sir George Campbell, and a staff of five head tehsildars and 16 naib-tehsildars with mohurirs was organized. The plan proved unsuccessful; the naib-tehsildars were underpaid, oppressed the ryots, and took bribes; some of the head tehsildars were not much better: they were all discharged in 1876. The Tirhoot and Bhagulpore portions of the property were divided first into four and finally into eight circles of collection, each under a Sub-Manager on Rs. 300 per mensem, with an accountant on Rs. 90 and an efficient English and vernacular establishment attached. This arrangement has been found to answer well under the close supervision of the Assistant Manager and Manager. The Sub-Managers go into the details of business of every kind connected with the putwaries, jeyt ryots, and ryots of the circles, all important matters being sent up through the Assistant Manager for the Manager's orders. They submit copies of their diaries every week, and keep complete registers in English and vernacular of every ryot's holding, demand for rent, amount paid, and arrears. The Sub-Managers are of a respectable class, holding the position of Deputy Collectors, and they generally take an active interest in their work. They are able to check many of the corrupt practices of the putwaries, who may be described as necessary evils. Several of them have recently been detected in cheating either the ryots or the raj, and have been either summarily dismissed or criminally prosecuted. The Sub-Managers have been strictly enjoined to employ them only as village accountants, the actual collection of rents being distributed among a certain number of registered jeyt ryots, who are allowed 3 per cent. commission on what they collect, less the reduced rates they have been permitted to pay in their own rents at.

3. The seer collections on their first introduction in Dhurrumpore appeared and were to a certain extent a failure from the following causes—(1) a newly appointed Manager had to organize an entirely new collecting staff for the realization of rents from villages supposed to yield a rental of R. 94,000 (being one-third of the total rental) on inefficient village papers, and after three years most destructive inundations of the Koosi river; added to this, a sum of Rs. 23,000, money deposited by farmers, had to be returned, which, if the farms had been renewed, would have appeared as so much collected. However, time has removed these difficulties, and the seer collections bring in as much now as the farms did formerly, notwithstanding the fact that by collecting abwabs and other cesses the farmers demanded and obtained from the ryots nearly one-seventh in excess of the hastoboodi jumma; (2) the assessment in the pergunnah being hal hasil—that is, on the crop sown and not on the nature of the soil—in many villages ryots only paying rents for the lands they actually cultivate—that is, for lands that are actually under some crop—of course the labour and trouble to the Manager was very much greater with this system which has now been in force since the end of 1871. I here quote a letter of Mr DeCourcey's after he had been in the management for four years, addressed to the Collector of Purneah, No. 213, paragraph 6, dated 23rd August 1866:—

"Had the whole of the pergunnah been under khas collection, besides the expense and trouble it would have entailed on the management, I have no doubt that the rents derived from it would have fallen short even of the Government demand on it. This may seem somewhat strange, but you will see that it is perfectly true and intelligible, when I explain that Dhurrumpore has been so neglected and mismanaged during the time of the former Maharajahs, that within almost every village within its boundaries the best and greatest portions of the lands have been made '*kahmsharra*' by the fraud and collusion of the ryots and farmers, holders of them. The consequence of this is that the hastoboodi jummas, as exhibited by the putwaries' papers, are far below the actual capabilities of the villages. In farming a village, therefore, the management had to demand and fix a rental above the hastobood jumma, and the farmer reimbursed himself by taking '*ulgee*' from the ryots, which really formed the staple of his profits. Now, had any of these villages been under khas management, we could not have obtained '*ulgee*' from the ryots."

Again he adds—"This taking 'ulgee' was not a hardship on the ryots, who were well off and held at such low rates."

CHAPTER III.

Jet ryots and putwaries.

The system of collection through Jet ryots is a very old one, but was not much resorted to by the late ticcadars, who collected a great deal themselves or through the agency of their peons and putwaries. On the villages becoming seer, the whole system was revised and the number of Jet ryots considerably reduced, those absolutely required for collection being retained. The reduction of the superfluous Jet ryots, most of whom were appointed by ticcadars to meet their own ends, was effected without much trouble in Nareedigur; they were served with written notices that their services were no longer required, and informed that they would be charged full rates if they continued to hold their lands, and almost all have paid their rents at the full village rates; in other circles the measure has met with varied success.

2. The putwaries and Jet ryots form the link of communication between the sub-managers and the ryots. The putwaries as a class are corrupt, dishonest, and most obstructive in working out the present system. They are adepts in forging accounts, cheating ryots, and passively resisting changes that trench on their illegal perquisites. The putwari does not care much for the zemindar or his agent, as he knows that his dismissal and appointment rest with the Collector. The putwaries keep all the accounts, write out counterfoil receipts with serial numbers, giving one to the ryot and filing the other in the circle office with his seah; he makes out the ryot's farug or acquittance when his yearly account is cleared up, which the sub-manager signs.

CHAPTER IV.

Condition of ryots.

The Raj tenants are not generally prosperous; many may be said to live from hand to mouth. During the administration of the Court of Wards, a succession of seasons of drought has been much against them; but though poor, they would have been much worse were it not for the good roads that have been constructed, the high price of all food-grains prevailing since 1873-74, and the liberal remission of rent for the famine years, when also large sums were lent to them free of interest. Their condition has been further ameliorated by the abolition of numerous abwabs (cesses) which were demanded from them in excess of rent. The direct system of collection has also been a great boon to them, releasing them, as I have elsewhere noted, from the unjust exactions of the ticcadars. They have, moreover, under the Court of Wards, become better aware of their own rights, and of what can legally be claimed from them, and are certainly less encumbered with debts to their village mahajuns than they used to be. Though poor, they are now contented; collections are made without friction, and they often express their gratitude for being freed from the oppressions of ticcadars.

CHAPTER V.

Indigo zerats.

All villages formerly in farm to factories, with the exception of two in farm to Dowlutpore, have been made seer, the factories being allowed to retain all the zerats, except the portions near to the houses. I consider the system of taking away the villages and allowing them to hold the zerats only, has benefitted the factories; also put a stop to much ill-feeling between planters and ryots. In leasing the zerats we have secured for the ryots all lands in close proximity to their villages, which formerly were nearly always taken up for indigo: this prevents trespass and constant differences between the ryots and the factory amlah. The planters at first felt much aggrieved when deprived of the privilege of taking out leases for entire villages, and declared they would not be able to cultivate indigo unless they continued to exercise the

influence of a ticcadar; but now that the zerat plan has been fairly tried, they seem to get on all right, and there are no complaints from either planter or ryot.

CHAPTER VI.

Rotation of crops.

The three principal harvests over nearly all the property are bhadoi, aghani and rubbee; the bhadoi consists of murwa, mukai, kodo, gumry, aus, shama, kowny, gudder, banga and urid. They are sown in May and June and cut in August and September. The aghani consists of dhan, urid, kurthee, janera, aloa, suthni, teel, methi. They are sown in May, June, July and August, and cut in December and January; dhan throughout being our principal crop. The rubbee consists of jow (barley), geaon (wheat), tisi (linseed), surso (mustard), tory, khesari, ranchi, kerao, moosoory, muttur, kusum (safflower), ukh (sugarcane), tobacco, sown in October and November, and cut in February, March and April.

CHAPTER VII.

Tuccavi advances.

Tuccavi advances were liberally made to the ryots for the construction of dhoors and bunds. The advances are generally recoverable without interest within a year or so from the date of advance. The number of dhoors and bunds thus constructed is shown below:—

Bunds ...	... 83	Tanks ...	... 81
Dhoors ...	... 625	Wells ...	... 24
Pynes ...	... 228		

The works are of very great benefit to the villagers in saving their crops from inundation and drought.

CHAPTER VIII.

Purta lands.

The approximate area of the purta lands was 87,539 bighas, out of which 29,446 were settled, leaving a balance of purta at the close of 1286 F of 58,093. The whole of this area is not culturable, inasmuch as it contains much jungle and land quite unfit for any sort of cultivation. In a few favorable seasons much more may be broken up and brought under cultivation, but I would not encourage the breaking up of the "kudimi purta" on account of the great want of grazing land on the estate.

CHAPTER IX.

Management.

On the demise of the late Maharajah, the Collector of Tirhoot assumed charge of the property. The eldest surviving brother, Guneshwar Singh, produced a will alleged to have been executed just before his brother's death, appointing him guardian to the minors. There were grave doubts as to the validity of the will; it was ignored, and a Mr. DeCasperz of the uncovenanted service was deputed to temporarily assume the management of the estate and charge of all valuable property. There is no doubt that ere he had time to secure the latter, much valuable jewellery, &c., had been made away with.

2. Mr. J. Forlong, a well known indigo planter in Eastern Bengal, and at the time Secretary to the Income Tax Commission in Calcutta, was appointed manager and guardian in February 1861. He found everything in the utmost state of confusion, but at once zealously devoted himself to the onerous task of clearing up old accounts, paying off old debts, improving the property, and carefully watching over and educating the wards, whose warm affection he soon deservedly gained, and to this day they cherish his memory. He took leave for 18 months to England in May 1865, and with the approval of the Board nominated Mr. G. Anderson of Kumtoul factory

as his *locum tenens*. Ere leaving, he had paid off the last heavy debt due by the estate, and Mr. Anderson made the first investment of Rs. 50,000. This gentleman zealously carried out Mr. Forlong's policy, and still continues to be an intimate friend of the Maharajah and his family.

3. The work had increased so much that it was found necessary to appoint an Assistant Manager to take charge of mofussil work, and specially of the Panchmahalla property, which had been brought under khas or seer collection after the famine of 1866. Mr. George Llewhellin, an indigo planter in Chuprah, was selected for this post and joined in 1867; he found the ryots of Panchmahalla in the utmost state of distress, but soon improved matters, got fair cart roads made, and by judicious though inexpensive irrigation, saved many a crop to the ryots when the tenantry of adjoining lands were still suffering from drought. Mr. Llewhellin was also soon actively engaged in testing village papers, as noted in the early part of this Report, and in this and in every way his services have been devoted to the interests of the estate and have been of great value.

4. Mr. Forlong had again to take sick leave in July 1868, hoping to return soon. Mr. Llewhellin was appointed to act for him: he died at Aden in September *en route* to England. I was appointed to succeed him and joined on the 28th December 1868.

5. I was allowed three months privilege leave from August to November 1872, when Mr. Llewhellin acted for me. I obtained 20 months furlough from March 1876 to November 1877, and Major R. C. Money officiated as Manager. Mr. Llewhellin had three months leave to England in 1870, when I carried on his work; in 1875 he got six months' leave, Mr. G. Nicolay, an indigo planter of Chumparun, officiated for him. He had again three months leave in 1878, when the Maharajah, at his own request, took over his work, in addition to the direct management of two of the circles which he has held for more than two years, thus acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of mofussil work.

6. The office establishment, since the introduction of the English system of accounts, has consisted of 17 English-writing and 28 vernacular ministerial officers under the immediate orders of the manager, aided by a Personal Assistant. The first incumbents of this office were Baboos Ashutosh Dhur up to 1861, Girish Chunder Das to 1862, and Modhoosoodun Pyne, who died in 1865, when Mahabeer Prosad was appointed, whose services, together with many of the head amlah, I was compelled to dispense with shortly after I joined, having detected them carrying on a regular system of bribery. I then obtained the services of Baboo Chunder Sekur Bose, who remained with me nearly seven years, and resigned shortly after I took furlough. He was invaluable to me when the onerous work of famine relief came on my hands, with the attendant labor of keeping intricate accounts of the purchase and expenditure of grain, &c., and I at all times found him an honest, zealous and efficient officer. He was succeeded for a short time by Baboo Nobin Chunder Mitter. Baboo Gowree Persad Sirkar succeeded him in May 1877, and has remained here ever since. He is a very clever and efficient officer, has acquired a thorough knowledge of the work that has to be done both in the sudder office and in the mofussil, and has afforded me great assistance.

7. Of the sub-managers I desire specially to record my high opinion of Mr. Patrick Duff, in charge of the Nareedigur Circle. So well has he performed his duty that no arrears are due by his ryots: such as could pay up he has persuaded to do so, and he obtained permission to strike off all bad balances by careful scrutiny of his accounts, and fully showing that they ought to be remitted. While so successful in collecting from, he is much liked by, the tenants and spoken well of by all classes.

CHAPTER X.

Detached estates and their management—Purneah.

Mr. Becher was manager of this estate on the part of the Maharajah when the Court of Wards assumed charge, and he remained on until relieved in April 1861 by Mr. Cook, who was relieved in July 1862 by Mr. DeCourcey, who retained the management until his death in May 1871. In June 1871 Mr. McQueen became manager,

and continued in charge until the Court of Wards released the estates in September 1879.

2. The Raj property is all in the pergunnah of Dhurrumpore, comprising an area of 915 square miles. It is divided into three zillahs, named Gondwara, Bhowanipore, and Birnagur. Gondwara, the largest of the three, lies to the south and east of the pergunnah; the high road from Caragola to Darjeeling runs through it. The two others lying to the west and north suffer most from the Koosi floods and the changes in its numerous channels.

3. The chief events of interest to note during the management were the survey, the change from making collections through ticcadars to collecting direct from the ryots through the village headmen, the removal of the supervision of the estate from the Bhagulpore to the Patna Commissioner's Office, the famine and the visit of the Maharajah to the property. The latter was a noteable event and will lead probably to the present Maharajah taking a greater interest in this estate than his ancestors did, who left it almost entirely in the hands of an unscrupulous amlah.

4. To the Dhurrumpore Estate is added the management of portions of three villages in pergunnah Chye in the district of Bhagulpore. These are not entire villages. The Raj has a 4-anna share butwara in Jehangirpore bysi, and 2 annas ijmali in the villages of Tulsipore and Bissenpore Ramsahia. The share in the butwara village pays well, but the other two give a good deal of trouble, and they are difficult of access from Purneah.

5. Mr. McQueen Assistant Manager in charge of the Dhurrumpore Estate, is an officer of great ability; were it not for his unwearied personal exertion, his thorough knowledge of every part of the pergunnah, and his tact and good management, the collections would not have sufficed to meet the demand for Government revenue.

Khurruckpore.

6. This estate, "pergunnah Havili Khurruckpore," comprising an area of about 150 square miles, chiefly hills and jungle, lies about 20 miles south-east of the fort and town of Monghyr, in which district it is now included, having been transferred to it from that of Bhagulpore in 1873. It is situated 11 miles south-west of the Burriarpore station (East Indian Railway Loop Line), to which it is connected by a well-raised metal road, constructed during the quasi-famine of 1866. When the management of the Durbhunga Raj came under the control of the Court of Wards, a surbarakar, Mahadeo Dutt, was found to be and continued in charge of this estate, immediately under the Collector of Bhagulpore, until Mr. C. DaCosta's appointment in 1862-63. He was succeeded by Mr. G. H. Grant, who was remunerated by a commission at 20 per cent on the collections, and on the Board of Revenue determining on surveying and settling the estate, ex-Deputy Collector Shah Hassan Ali was appointed for the purpose in 1865, and when this work was completed, the estate was leased to Mr. G. H. Grant for five years, viz. from 1866-67 to 1870-71, the terms of the lease being to the effect that he was not to infringe or otherwise interfere with the ex-Deputy Collector's settlement of the lands, and was ensured 20 per cent on the collections.

2. In 1869 the irrigation project for this estate was submitted by Mr. (then Executive Engineer) H. W. Stevens, and on its being approved of by the Court of Wards, Mr. J. C. Forbes was appointed (1st June 1870) to look after the works and conduct the zemindari affairs, and continued to do so until 30th November 1872, when he left and was succeeded temporarily by Mr. Stevens, who was in turn succeeded by Mr. A. V. Roberts, Assistant Engineer, who was transferred from Durbhunga and continued in charge of both the zemindari and irrigation works from January 1873 to 12th May 1874, when, owing to the magnitude of the latter and the undivided attention they required, it was considered expedient that a separate man should be appointed for the zemindari, especially as the survey and re-settlement of the estate were in contemplation, and Mr. J. P. Scott joined his appointment as Assistant Manager on 13th May 1874; but this did not continue long, for Mr. Scott died at Monghyr on or about the 9th August following, and Mr. A. V. Roberts was again directed to take charge of both offices, which he held until Mr. H. O. King joined and took over charge of the zemindari office from him on 13th November 1874. Owing to the completion of the irrigation works

which Mr. King was professionally qualified to look after, he was directed to assume charge of them from Mr. (Superintending Engineer) Stevens on 10th March 1877, and is still in charge of both offices.

3. Mr. King took great interest in his work and infinite trouble in defeating in law courts the numerous cases brought forward by some litigious head ryots and their advisers to oppose our rightful claims to enhancement of rent. He also exercised an intelligent control over the canal works.

CHAPTER XI.

Famine.

During the period under review this estate has had to contend with several severe seasons of drought in different parts of the property, that of 1873 being unfortunately general throughout the estate.

The first calling for special notice, was that of 1865-66. In 1864 the rice crop, which is the chief produce of the district, and on the sufficiency of which the prosperous condition of the people of the northern pergunnahs entirely depends, had failed to the extent of nearly one-half, and the price of rice had risen to twelve seers per rupee: there was extreme distress among the poorest classes, and deaths occurred from starvation in the north and east divisions of the district.

2. In 1865, with the prospect of a still more complete failure of the rice crop in the line of country bordering on the Nepal territory, and a certain deficiency of that crop in a greater or less degree throughout the sub-division of Mudhoobuni and the northern portions of the sub-divisions of Durbhunga and Mozufferpore, the prices of rice and indian-corn, the staple articles of food, rose to three times their ordinary rate; cases of suicide for want of food and deaths from absolute starvation occurred.

3. The portion of the Raj estates most affected was the Panchmahalla, comprising pergunnahs Ludwari, Delawurpore, Bahadoorpore, Purihar Muhoowas and Nurrungah. It appears adequate measures for relief were not organized, only a small sum being spent in charitable relief, and the consequence was considerable mortality and extensive desertion amongst the poorer classes of ryots. It will not be out of place to quote below extract from Mr. Forlong's annual report for 1866-67:—

"I cannot speak personally of the terrible calamity that devastated a portion of this district last year, and still leaves some of its sorrows to be seen, more especially in the Panchmahalla villages on the Nepal frontier and on the north-west portions of this estate; but I cannot help feeling painfully the charge the Famine Commissioner has just made that, when need was the sorest, this estate did not do its duty. I feel this, because I think the charge was not totally groundless."

Mr. Cockerell, the Famine Commissioner, on his visit to Purihar, wrote as under:—"On my visit to Purihar, I went into several of these villages and found them depopulated to the extent of two-thirds, only about 30 out of 80 or 100 houses in each being found inhabited; the standing crop on the lands that had been cultivated was very poor; much of it seemed to be hardly worth the cost of harvesting, and would probably be left as food for the cattle. The condition of the people in this part of the district will need the attention of the district officers should the prices of food again become high, for, there being no stores to depend upon, the distress will of course be great."

4. The second is too well known to necessitate any lengthy report, but it is satisfactory to record that the steps taken to avert actual famine were successful and approved of by Government, and that there was actually less mortality among the Raj tenantry in the trying year of 1874 than in ordinary years. The expenditure, of course, was great; but not incommensurate with the great saving of life, as also with the success attained in keeping the tenantry on the property and enabling them at once to resume their ordinary agricultural pursuits. Mr. Elliot's able report on the Mysore famine is so forcibly illustrative on this point that further comment would be superfluous; but it is right to record that the relatives of the Maharajah, in an address to Lord Northbrook in 1874, greatfully acknowledged the wisdom of the steps

taken to avert the disaster to the estate, and in the address presented to Sir Steuart Bayley on his recent visit to Durbhunga on the 29th September, the Maharajah and the members of his family bore grateful testimony to the benefit of all his proceedings during the eventful period of 1874 while Commissioner of the Patna Division.

5. The amount actually spent was as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
On works of utility	8,37,948	15	10
On purchase and transit of grain	20,12,794	11	3½
On loan to ryots	77,646	3	6
Charitable relief in cash	30,017	6	0
Total ...	29,58,407	4	7½
Subsequently on remission of rent in consequence of famine to ryots	3,95,422	0	0
Subsequently on remission of rent in consequence of famine to ticcadars for the benefit of their ryots ...	2,04,647	0	0
Total ...	6,00,069	0	0
GRAND TOTAL ...	35,58,476	4	7½

6. Serious anxiety was again felt in 1876. The short rainfall of 1875, and the early cessation of rain in September 1876, caused another partial failure of the aghani crop in pergunnahs Allapore and Nareedigur, and there was consequently great distress amongst the poorer classes; adequate measures were at once adopted to alleviate distress and suffering.

The sum spent was as follows :—

	Allapore. Rs.	Nareedigur. Rs.
On charitable relief	16,590	23,717
On works of utility	11,650	25,440
Advance for purchase of paddy-seed ...	8,103	13,752
Remissions of rent to ryots	81,000	44,440
Total ...	1,17,343	1,07,349

7. The rent in some portions of Allapore was found to be abnormally high, and opportunity was taken to make a survey and settlement of the whole pergunnah on a sound and equitable basis; in some portions the rents were reduced, and in some enhanced, according to the quality of the soil, as will be seen under section Survey and Settlement.

8. For Purneah, Mr. McQueen writes as follows :—

" The famine (1874) does not call for much remark. The ryots here, although in many instances hard up, were never reduced to starvation. The Raj had supplied three thousand maunds of rice for the benefit of the survey staff then employed in Dhurrumpore; from this loans were given to those in distress and the very poor (who in other years are supported by the charity of their fellow villagers) were fed. There was no pressure made for the arrears of rents, so that the ryots of the estate passed through that trying period fairly well, and the Raj was put to no great expenditure. In fact from the 3,200 maunds of rice supplied, valued at Rs. 10,749, a sum of Rs. 6,262 was realized, leaving an amount of Rs. 4,487 as the total expenditure to meet the famine."

9. The drought of 1873 extended to Khurruckpore, where relief work was at once available on the great irrigation works.

CHAPTER XII.

Education of the minors.

The education of the minors was initiated by Mr. Forlong, who in 1864 secured the services of Baboo Prosono Koomar Mookerjee as their teacher, and in 1866 those of Mr. Chester Macnaghten from Cambridge, the Baboo remaining as his assistant.

2. Mr. Macnaghten was their tutor when I joined, and I doubt if a gentleman in every way more suited to the position could have been found. Though I was the boys' guardian, I consulted Mr. Macnaghten in all matters connected with their movements and education.

3. We decided on recommending that they should be taken to Benares, there to live in a house of their own with their tutor, and attend the college classes. Their mother was very averse to this arrangement and petitioned vehemently against it, but Sir William Grey supported me; the change was carried out and with great success. After a while it was decided that they should discontinue attending the college classes and study in their own house, entirely under their tutor, going to the Wards' Institute every afternoon, merely to join in the boys' games there. Their riding lessons were continued; they learnt to play racquets, billiards, and hunted regularly with the subscription pack of fox-hounds.

4. Unfortunately Mr. Macnaghten resigned his appointment in December 1870, and in the interval of a successor being selected, I had, with the assistance of the Baboo, to look after their education myself, occasionally visiting them at Benares for that purpose and having them with me during their holidays.

5. Mr. J. Alexander of the Geological Survey Department was nominated as Mr. Macnaghten's successor, joined in August 1871, and may be said to have completed their education; for when, owing to his marriage, he had to resign in 1877, and Captain A. Evans Gordon was sent to succeed him, he was intended to be more of a companion than a teacher, and on his leaving for another appointment in February 1878, his place was not filled up.

6. The good result of their education in the younger brother's case was happily illustrated in his special selection by the Government of India for an appointment as Assistant Magistrate, which he still holds.

7. The Maharajah's intuition into all matters connected with the administration of the property had been all along undertaken by the Manager and has so been continued to the end, with what result time will show. But I can confidently assert that they both have been brought up and behave as gentlemen; that they are as expert at all sports as most young men of their age in England; that they read and write English well, are well up in English literature, and able to converse with intelligence on all the ordinary topics of the day. The Maharajah takes great pleasure in his well filled stable, and is fond of driving his well-appointed drag and mail-phæton. At the recent installation at Bankipore, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Steuart Bayley, was pleased to express his opinion that the Maharajah's abilities, manners, accomplishments and personal character eminently fit him for the high position he is destined to fill.

8. I arranged that the young men should travel with their tutor as much as possible during their vacations: they have been to Cashmere, the Punjab, through the North-West Provinces and Bombay, visited several Native States and their Chiefs, and have often resided in Calcutta and Darjeeling.

They are personally acquainted with the Viceroy and Lieutenant-Governor, most of the higher officers of State, with the Maharajah of Cashmere and other native potentates.

9. The Maharajah has been three times married, first in 1873 to the daughter of Gobind Jha of Rusarh, district Purneah, who died in March 1874, then to the daughter of Indernath Misser of Rusarh who, being very young, it was decided by the Lieutenant-Governor that he should be married to one of more suitable age, and in February 1877 he was united to the daughter of Parasman Thakoor of Sumoul, and at the same time his brother was married to the daughter of Parasman Jha of Mungrownee, pergunnah Hattee.

CHAPTER XIII.

Education.

When the Court of Wards took charge, there was not a single school or patshalla on the estate. The Durbhunga anglo-vernacular school was opened in 1863 by the late Mr. Forlong; admittance free. It was established in a small building within the palace compound. When I took charge there were 90 pupils, in accordance

with the wishes of the family, I continued the system of gratuitous education. Finding the school-house too small and incommodious, I obtained the sanction of the Court of Wards to the construction of a suitable school building, which cost about Rs. 14,000, and is capable of affording accommodation to 300 boys; the walls were built so as to admit of a second storey being added if required. The number of boys on the roll is now 350, divided into seven classes. The school imparts elementary education in English and vernacular. The boys in the first class are taught up to the Minor Scholarship Examination standard. The school has proved fairly successful; from 1869 to 1878 sixty boys successfully passed the Vernacular Scholarship Examination. Many of the passed students are employed in Government offices and railways as mohurirs, ameens and clerks. One of the students is now a Sub-Deputy Collector, 1st grade, Chuprah. Shortly before the Court of Wards made over charge, it was raised to the status of a higher class English school, and will prepare boys for the University Entrance Examination. It is maintained at a cost of about Rs. 3,000 per annum, including establishment and contingencies. A Sanskrit department has been opened in connection with the school, in which students are instructed in literature, grammar, logic and the vedas. The number attending at present is twenty.

Vernacular schools.

2. In 1868 twenty-six vernacular middle class schools were established in different parts of the Tirhoot and Nareedigur estates for the education of the ryots' children in the interior; suitable houses were constructed for them. The total cost of the schools was Rs. 838 a month. The boys were taught elementary books in Hindi and Urdu, arithmetic and Indian geography. Owing to want of proper supervision the schools did not flourish, and six were closed from paucity of attendance. The Government Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tirhoot, was, under the orders of the Education Department, directed to inspect them, but having little time at his disposal, the duty was carried out indifferently; hence in 1872-73, finding the progress slow and unsatisfactory, especially in the lower classes, I applied for and obtained the services of a special Deputy Inspector, and under his supervision the schools began to improve, boys were regularly sent up for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination and successfully acquitted themselves. The number passed from 1873 to 1878 was 131, some of whom are prosecuting their studies in the Durbhunga school, and about 100 are employed in Government offices and railways as mohurirs, ameens and post office clerks. The Raj now maintains twenty vernacular schools at a cost of about Rs. 5,000 per annum. The total number of boys now attending the schools is 1,000, principally of the rural and agricultural classes.

3. There is also a Government aided school in Khurruckpore to which the Raj contributes Rs. 300 per annum. The school is doing well; the number on the roll is 72; some boys successfully acquitted themselves at the last examination.

4. Besides the above, the Raj contributes to the following schools and patshalas:—

	Rs.
Contribution to primary schools and patshallas	1,126
Subscription to Mudhoobuni anglo-vernacular school ...	1,080
Ditto Seetamurhee ditto	480
Ditto Roserah ditto	600
Mozufferpore Society's school	360
Monghyr zillah school	600
Mudhepurah zillah school	300
Soopole ditto	126
Khurruckpore school and patshallas	564
Dhurrumpore patshallas	255

5. The total expenditure by the Raj on education is about Rs. 25,000 per annum.

CHAPTER XIV.

Dispensaries.

Three dispensaries are entirely supported by the Raj, viz. at Durbhunga, Narayah and Khurruckpore. The Durbhunga dispensary has proved a very useful institution; hundreds of patients from distant places come to it for treatment.

2. The hospital building was constructed in 1873 at a cost of Rs. 42,000. It is very commodious and comfortable, and capable of accommodating about forty in-door patients, for whom iron bedsteads have been provided. Medicines are supplied by Government at cost price. The dispensary is under the immediate charge of an Assistant Surgeon, and the establishment is kept up at a cost of Rs. 9,000 a year, including contingencies.

3. The number of patients treated during the past five years was as under—

Year.	Out-door patients.	In-door patients.	
		Total treated.	Total cured.
1874	7,019	789	537
1875	8,131	459	319
1876	8,122	360	123
1877	8,445	378	155
1878	9,378	340	124
Total ...	41,095	2,326	1,258
Average	8,219	465·2	251·6

Capital operations were performed during the period in 167 cases, of which eleven ended fatally.

The above result speaks for itself as to the popularity of the institution.

4. The Narayah dispensary was recently established for the benefit of the Raj tenantry on the east of the property. The hospital building has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,000. The dispensary is under the immediate charge of a native doctor. The cost of the establishment, including contingencies, is about Rs. 900 per annum. It is certain to prove a useful institution, open to all who need its aid.

5. The Khurruckpore dispensary is well situated and well provided with out-offices; the institution is popular and is under the charge of a native doctor. It is maintained at a cost of Rs. 2,000 a year.

6. Besides the above, the Raj contributes to the following dispensaries:—

	Per annum Rs.
Mudhoobuni dispensary	300
Seetamurhee ditto	300
Roserah ditto	120
Mudhepurah ditto in Bhagulpore	120
Purneah and Arrareah dispensaries	110

During epidemics the services of special native doctors are entertained and paid for by the Raj.

7. The total expenditure on this head is Rs. 12,000 per annum.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Works.

When about to join this appointment, I was particularly enjoined by Sir W. Grey, then Lieutenant-Governor, to give my special attention to the construction of good roads throughout the property, and for many years subsequently I was instructed to spend money liberally on the improvement and development of the estate, as it was not the wish of the Government to leave a surplus of cash available to the Maharajah on coming of age; but even with these instructions before me the expenditure on works would not have amounted to anything like that shewn below, had it not been for the abnormal rates we were compelled to pay for labor to the starving workmen at the time of the famine of 1874, when works that in ordinary years could have been carried out for Rs. 100, often cost Rs. 1,000. We acted under orders of Government who had to expend at the same rate or even higher on their famine works.

2. The policy of Government as to leaving a surplus was only altered after Sir Ashley Eden became Lieutenant-Governor.

3. The total expenditure on Public Works was Rs. 54,92,245, including establishment, plants and tools—*vide* Appendix A.

The works may be classified under three major heads—reproductive works; works of public utility permanently benefitting the property, but bringing in no direct return on the outlay; and domestic improvements. The important reproductive works are the irrigation works in Khurruckpore, constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,09,983, and bringing 3·66 per cent on the outlay, and the Maharajgunge Bazar, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,63,743. The construction of the Maharajgunge Bazar was proposed as a reproductive work to yield 3 per cent on the capital outlay, as a desirable and sanitary improvement to the neighbourhood, and as forming the main approach to the palace grounds: almost all the arches have been rented by shop-keepers. The sum above mentioned represents the total outlay, but from this sum must fairly be deducted and classified under public utility the cost, Rs. 60,000, of the handsome public serai which is to be free to all travellers; and it should further be noted that one block, costing Rs. 44,800, is occupied by the master and men of the Raj band: thus the cost of the Bazar itself falls to Rs. 1,58,943, from which should be deducted Rs. 57,600, the cost for 48 arches occupied or let rent-free by the Maharajah to his attendants and others, thus reducing the cost of the arches actually available for rent to Rs. 1,01,343, yielding 4·3 per cent.

4. The extensive irrigation works in Khurruckpore were commenced in June 1870 and completed in November 1876.

At a place where the river Mun debouches from the hills, an anicut measuring 666 feet in length, 550 feet in breadth at the base and 24 feet at the crest, and 78 feet in height (above the river bed) has been constructed, traversed by a stone wall running longitudinally with the anicut or weir, and protected in the up-stream side by a parallel wall of pugged clay quite impervious to water, and battering from 10 feet (in width each) at the foundations to about 3 feet at the top, and built up to within 3 feet of the crest of the weir.

This grand reservoir it was estimated would have a catchment basin of 36 square miles, but this has never been attained owing to a gullet having been cut in the waste weir or escape 15 feet below its sill and 30 feet wide, which apparently suffices for the escape of the surplus water. There are two head gates, one with three sluices on the north, and another with four at the south ends of the reservoir. The sluices in these head gates supply two main canals at each end, whence four distributary canals, which are constructed on the high-level system, with falls at convenient levels on the north and three on the south side, carry off the water for irrigation. The lengths of these canals aggregate 27 miles.

In addition to the flow through the waste weir, this estate is bound under a most inequitable decree of old date to allow Rajah Lilanund Singh two-thirds of the influx of the river Mun, whereas the Raj is entitled to only one-third, although it defrayed the whole cost for the construction, &c., of these irrigation works without any contribution from Rajah Lilanund Singh.

With a view to obviate any inconvenience which might accrue to this estate by its supply of water being thus suddenly shut off, a chain-work of watersheds has been constructed (old ones being thoroughly repaired and utilized) which are kept supplied by distributary pipes and channels from the distributary canals noted above, from which the tenants irrigate their lands, whilst Rajah Lilanund Singh gets his share. The pecuniary advantage derived by the irrigation works may be gleaned from the fact that Rs. 98,003 were collected during the Fusli year 1286, against Rs. 51,418 in 1283 and Rs. 64,149 in 1284, and this has been effected without pressure.

Besides the revenue immediately derivable from these works, they have enhanced the value of this estate by the extensive development of young sâl or sakhua and ebony forests (indigenous to these parts) which are rapidly increasing and flourishing luxuriantly on the hilly sides of the reservoir. Had it not been for the facilities afforded for irrigating and the storage of water, the aghani crops of 1284, 1285 and 1286 F' would have almost entirely failed, and as this is the principal crop, the project may, among its other advantages, be

regarded as a humane act. Rs. 23,485 represents the increased rental on the actual irrigable area, 34,641 bighas, giving a percentage of 3⅔ on the outlay.

5. In addition to the great irrigation work at Khurruckpore initiated by Mr. Stevens and myself, schemes were considered and surveys made to irrigate the Panchmahalla property, and to control the overflow of the Koosi in our Purneah Estate, but were abandoned as impracticable: other and more feasible works of irrigation I proposed in Allapore, Nareedigur and Jarrail pergunnahs, and Rs. 4,000 were paid to the Government Irrigation Department for surveys and plans. These works have, at the Maharajah's special request, been postponed for him to gradually carry out himself.

6. The principal works of public utility are the several roads, bridges, culverts, the screw-pile viaducts and buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,07,588. When the Court of Wards assumed charge, there were no roads or communications with the interior of the estate: in the rains traffic had to be suspended. Before and during the famine main roads, extending over 150 miles, were constructed and bridged all over the estate, and feeder and village roads made or improved, thus enabling the Raj tenants conveniently to carry their surplus produce to distant markets, where they could obtain better prices for their grain. This fact was gratefully acknowledged by the Maharajah and the members of his family in an address presented to Sir S. C. Bayley on his recent visit to Durbhunga. The roads deserving of special mention are a portion of the Purneah Trunk Road, 83 miles with 84 masonry bridges and 15 screw-pile viaducts. The Nurhar Trunk Road, 36 miles with 64 viaducts and culverts. The former is a continuation of what may be termed the Grand Trunk Road north of the Ganges, which stretches from the eastern boundary of Tirhoot on the Tiljooga river to Gazeepore; the road is passable for traffic throughout the year. The construction of this road was undertaken to benefit the public by facilitating communication with a part of the country which, on account of the heavy inundation of the Tiljooga and other rivers, was always isolated during the rainy season. The road brings the estate of Dhurrumpore in Purneah into much closer communication with Durbhunga. The Nurhar road was completed in 1873, and a very great traffic set in, much exceeding what was ever anticipated. Grain and oil-seeds from our rich pergunnahs of Buchour, Balya, and Jarrail, with hides from Nepal, form the principal exports; the imports being iron, piece-goods and salt. Prior to the construction of this road, the pergunnahs north of the Durbhunga district were quite cut off from the town during the rains. On the sides of some of the roads I planted over 20,000 sisu and other trees, which already afford shade to the traveller and will in a few years be valuable property. The right to all trees that fall or have to be removed is to be reserved to the Maharajah, by a written agreement to be executed by the Chairman of the Road Cess Committee, Durbhunga.

7. All roads constructed by the estate have been made over to the Road Cess Committees of Bhagulpore and Durbhunga, the right to the iron bridges constructed at considerable cost being reserved to the estate.

8. Under domestic improvements may be classified the additions and alterations to the palace and other Raj buildings in the towns of Durbhunga and Mozufferpore.

9. Durbhunga has for generations been the chief place of residence of the Maharajah's ancestors, noted also as the principal emporium of trade in Eastern Tirhoot, possessed of wealth, industry and antiquity; but until the time of the Court of Wards, having nothing beyond the imposing extent of the Rajbari and some fine old tanks to gratify the eye or taste, no pleasant gardens, fine buildings, broad roads, or handsome bridges, the residents, even visitors to the palace, had to wade knee-deep through slush and mud; there was no refuge for the sick, no resting place for travellers, no school. Now all is changed, and for the better. The place has become an important civil station, the terminus of a railway and the residence of many Europeans, officials and others. These circumstances have contributed their share—and an important share—to the general improvement. I must, however, confine myself to the work of the Court of Wards in their endeavours to improve the surroundings of their charge, the æsthetic development, if I may use the expression, of our management. Old friends of my predecessor Mr. Forlong tell me of the apparently hopeless jungle, of huts, ponds, foul vegetation

and dirt which he found surrounding and even penetrating into the precints of the palace; so much so that it had become proverbial that cholera or other epidemic sickness generally took its origin in the palace and thence spread through the town. Now, not only has this reproach been removed, but even in the worst periods of sickness which have prevailed during the last 18 years its incidence has been hardly felt within the palace walls. Mr. Forlong had an arduous task, but one for which few could have been more qualified than himself from taste, inclination and personal influence; and in the course of a few years he succeeded in entirely removing from within and without whatever was objectionable. The old palace before his death had become the attractive centre of a pretty garden, now some fifty acres in extent, and it has been a pleasure to me to endeavour to complete the work he had so well begun. It is generally acknowledged that the garden is laid out with much taste; it has good broad metalled roads, a fernery and orchid house, ornamental pieces of water overshadowed by weeping willows, a racquet-court with adjoining billiard-room and bath, a deer park, and bathing pavilion for the ladies of the family. Between the palace and the park, in which the Manager's house and office are situated, stands the Maharajah's present residence, a moderately sized but handsome building, furnished with elegance and taste, having its own garden, aviary, &c. In convenient proximity are the magnificent range of stables, coach and harness houses and syces' barracks, with which Lord Northbrook was so pleased that he desired me to send him copies of the plans; not far off is the band-stand, and near to this the school-house and a fine hospital, allowed to be one of, if not the best zillah hospital in India; also a menagerie, dog-kennel, &c., everywhere, where possible, space, shade and beauty having been aimed at. Many of the tumble-down and ill-ventilated buildings comprising the palace were pulled down and more suitable ones constructed, including a fine Durbar hall 130 feet long, and a handsome suite of apartments for the Dowager Maharanee; but during my absence on furlough all, except the last-named, were pulled down and fresh plans prepared for a new palace. The legal advisers of the Government considered that we ought not to commence the work, as it could not be finished during the Court of Wards' time; the plans therefore, designed and altered at great expense, have been made over to the Maharajah, who has already advertized for a competent engineer and architect to take the work in hand.

10. The credit of constructing the above noted works is due to Mr. Stevens, who was appointed Executive Engineer to the Raj in 1866, and left on reduction of establishment in 1877, being succeeded by Mr. Gough, who died of cholera in May last, when the vacancy was temporarily filled up by his former assistant Mr. Low. The accounts have for years past been all submitted to, and audited by, the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal.

APPENDIX A.—*Statement shewing in detail the expenditure on Public Works from the commencement of the minority of the Maharajah to 15th September* 1879.

PARTICULARS.		Rs.
Reproductive works.		
Maharajgunge Bazar blocks for rent	... ...	1,58,943
Hurpore or Gozrowlee embankment	... ...	10,933
Sonehan embankment ...	... ...	11,891
Three bungalows in the Kunhowlee compound, Mozufferpore		49,148
Repairs to Kunhowlee house	at „ ...	1,378
Ditto to roofs and annual repairs to houses	at „ ...	2,884
Ditto to Berhampore house	at „ ...	7,419
Ditto to Collector's house	at „ ...	6,971
Ditto to Chandowarah house	at „ ...	7,494
Ditto to Goolzarbagh Chowny	at Patna ...	13,100
Reservoirs at Khurruckpore ...	... ...	60,635
Head works at „ ...	... ...	1,75,254
Canals at „ ...	... ...	2,97,865
Distributaries at „ ...	... ...	25,785
Buildings at „ ...	... ...	18,010
Embankments at „ ...	... ...	18,533
Communications at „ ...	... ...	7,684
		8,73,917

Works of public utility.

	Rs.
Anglo-vernacular school at Durbhunga	13,819
Repairs to anglo-vernacular school	1,124
Charitable hospital at Durbhunga, enclosure wall, roads, drainage and furniture, &c.	41,910
Naryah dispensary and out-houses	2,319
Maharajgunge Bazar, serai for use of public	60,000
Excavating tanks	24,430
Ditto Burrowar tanks	4,099
Ditto Dighia reservoir	17,868
Constructing four pucca wells at Durbhunga	4,035
Screw-pile viaduct over the river Perocher	1,56,690
Ditto over the river Peepraghat	26,803
Ditto over the river Bagmati	66,242
Ditto over the river Bhooti Balan ...	1,06,644
Masonry viaduct over the river Gungowarah	12,883
Screw-pile viaduct over Jewach ghât	15,980
Nurhar road bridging	1,93,410
Bridging Nagurbastee road	12,884
Nurgownah moat	18,550
Repairs to roads, bridges and ferries	30,243
Ditto to frontier road from north emigration to Lokee ...	6,940
Bridging Mohadeb Mut road	4,336
Town roads	41,414
Road from Rambagh to model farm	6,106
Purneah road, first and second sections	3,430
Nagurbustee road, earthwork and tree-fencing... ...	33,733
Nurhar road, ditto ditto ...	27,656
Jhunjerpore road, earthwork	19,319
Bheembund road	26,487
Emigration roads, north and south	7,57,430
Purneah road	1,00,162
Famine roads and tanks	6,15,749
Dugmara roads	54,863
	25,07,558

Domestic improvement.

Additions and alterations to palace and garden ...	1,44,080
Roof to upper verandah of minor's apartments ...	2,699
Iron park gates for palace	3,070
Billiard-room, racquet-court and bath-room	30,966
Jhooran Chuprah and new house at Mozufferpore ...	39,858
Furnishing palace	1,02,124
Painting palace and other Raj buildings	5,333
Bathing pavilion to Maharanee's tank	8,959
Special repairs to Chottaunder Gunowar dewry ...	3,057
Ditto to Burraunder ditto	2,246
Repairs to palace and other Raj buildings	72,591
Ditto to Secunderpore house at Mozufferpore ...	43,261
Ditto to Jhooran Chuprah house at ditto	21,168
Materials at site of proposed new palace	67,297
Dismantling old palace at Durbhunga	7,649
Filling and draining bath in palace compound ...	1,568
Maharanee Mohesur Latta's new apartments ...	41,170
Zenana addition to Maharajah's residence, Anundbagh ...	14,648
Additions to residence of Maharajah of Durhbunga ...	14,741
Ditto to new zenana building, Anundbagh ...	10,751
Wire-fencing round Secunderpore house, Mozufferpore ...	3,675
Tutor's bungalow, cook-house and out-offices	4,961
Bandmaster's and men's quarters in Maharagunge Bazar ...	44,800
Pooja house at Benares	7,311
Repairs to temples	20,851
Band lines at Mozufferpore	4,785
Making a wall, aqueduct, drainage and engine-house for supplying water to palace garden	6,504
Repairs to bund at Secunderpore	2,774
Additions and alterations to Nurgownah buildings ...	14,642
Elephant shed	13,615
Coach and harness rooms	15,794

Domestic improvement—continued.

	Rs.
Stable and screen wall opposite	35,641
Executive Engineer's house	9,372
Sepoy's lines in front of palace	3,209
Assistant Engineer's bungalow	2,899
Iron granary at Durbhunga	3,601
Barracks for syces and stable attendants ...	12,496
New north wing to Manager's residence	9,118
Settlement Officer's bungalow and out-houses ...	4,348
Re-modelling zemindary cutchery and Manager's house ...	19,230
Repairs to ditto ditto ...	3,783
Purchase of Judge's cutchery at Mozufferpore ...	4,080
Additions and alterations to billiard-room at Anundbagh	816
Verandah additions to Maharajah's residence ...	2,831
Cloth and store room in Maharajah's residence ...	1,020
Band-stand in the model farm compound	3,905
Compound wall east of Maharajah's residence	3,395
New aviary and tealery Annundbagh	2,265
Dog-kennel near cowshed in model farm	1,766
Constructing out-buildings for Maharajah's office ...	2,181
Metalling main road to palace	5,224
Bridge over Rambagh moat	2,919
Stone-post railing with iron gas-piping in model farm compound	13,015
Iron record racks of Manager's office	4,558
Cowshed in the model farm compound	9,595
	9,38,215
Minor works	6,20,534
Tools and plant	54,965
Establishment	4,47,862
Profit and loss	14,094
	5,16,921
Balance outstanding under suspense on 15th September 1879, value of stock made over to Maharajah	35,100
GRAND TOTAL ...	54,92,245

CHAPTER XVI.

Survey and settlement.

It was at first proposed to make a detailed survey of all the Raj property beginning with Tirhoot, and for this purpose Mr. A. Smith, Senior Superintendent of Survey, was, under Government orders No. 1486R, dated 7th August 1872, deputed to carry on the work till the return of Mr. F. Jones from leave. A Survey Deputy Collector and two peshkars were transferred from the Midnapore and Hooghly establishments in August and September 1872, and in October Mr. F. Jones took charge of the work. The first thing Mr. Jones had to do was to teach survey work to candidates from the surrounding districts who sought employment as ameens. Subsequently it was decided that only the survey of the estates belonging to the Durbhunga Raj, situated in the pergunnah Dhurrumpore, zillah Purneah, should be undertaken, and Mr. Jones was ordered to conduct the survey, as well as to supervise the settlement of the khas mehals in the Bhagulpore Division. The expenditure incurred from August 1872 to January 1873 in preparing the establishment for the field, &c., was Rs. 4,449-6-7. On the 5th February 1873 Mr. Hewitt, Deputy Commissioner of Wards' Estates, Behar, took charge of the party from Mr. Jones at Bhagulpore, and directed them to proceed at once to Purneah, and to take from the Collectorate copies of papers required for the work of surveying the Dhurrumpore Estate. Mr. Hewitt himself went to Purneah during the third week of February, and immediately sent the party into the interior to commence operations in zillah Gondowarah, one of the three sub-divisions of the Dhurrumpore

pergunnah. The field season closed in the beginning of July, during which period of four months the party consisting of one Deputy Collector, six peshkars and 60 ameens surveyed 42 villages, comprising an area of 70,190 acres. The ameens were new to the work and the party did not take the field till late in the season. One peshkar and ten ameens were left at Purneah to teach survey work to the putwaries under Mr. McQueen, the sub-manager of the estate, and the rest of the peshkars and ameens, with the Deputy Collector and his office establishment, went to Bankipore during the rains in order to draw out the maps and papers under the immediate supervision of Mr. Hewitt. In the beginning of September 1873, the Deputy Collector (Moonshee Mujijudeen) was deputed for three months to carry on the work of the sub-manager of the Dhurrumpore estate, during the temporary absence of Mr. McQueen on privilege leave, one of the peshkars (Enaetoollah) superintended the working of the establishment at head-quarters. On the 7th December 1873 the survey party again took the field and worked till July 1874, during which period they measured 252 villages, comprising an area of 378,916 acres. In May 1874 Mr. Porter was appointed to officiate as Deputy Commissioner of Wards' Estates in Mr. Hewitt's place, and the work of the recess was under his general supervision brought to a close in December. The survey maps and papers are all in the sub-manager's office at Purneah; during the first field season, 1872-73, the survey was principally made by compass and chain, but during the second season, 1873-74, the plane-table was used, and in consequence the outturn of work was much larger. The following maps and papers were prepared:—

1. Boundary maps (hudbusts) and their field works.
2. Village maps and their chittahs.
3. Maps of the village sites and khusrah khanasumari.
4. Khatiani of the chittahs and assamiwar terij.
5. Village statistics.

The forms were lithographed and filled up in Hindi, which is the language of the pergunnah. Where any discrepancies were found between the boundaries of the villages as shewn in the revenue survey maps, and the boundaries as pointed out to the Deputy Collector by the putwaries and Jet ryots, they were entered in the maps prepared. In the assamiwar terij was recorded any discrepancies between the area of the fields as shewn in the putwaries' papers compared with the measurements made by the survey party. The qualities and qualifications of lands and crops were recorded in the survey papers from the papers furnished by the putwaries who were present, and explained to the Deputy Collector all points which he failed to comprehend. The hudbust or boundary maps were drawn on the scale of 6 bighas to an inch, and the kistwar or village maps on the scale of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bighas to an inch. The local bigha was found to be one of six hâths (or cubits, 18 inches) to a cottah; in other words, 120 cubits, *i.e.* 90 yards, was found to be the length of the bigha. The general scale of the village maps was therefore $13\frac{1}{9}$ inches to a mile. In some villages, however, where the plots were very small and complicated, a larger scale was adopted. A register was prepared in English, giving in alphabetical order the names of the villages surveyed each season, together with an abstract of the statistics and the area reduced to acres, as compared with the area shewn in the revenue survey maps, one acre being equivalent to 1 bigha 6 cottahs and 18 dhoors. The total expenditure from February 1873 to December 1874 amounted to about Rs. 56,000. The list of villages surveyed was furnished by the sub-manager. They numbered 294, and their area was found to be 449,106 acres. The following table shews the classification of the land:—

		Bighas.
1.	Cultivated	2,14,264
2.	Culturable	1,46,618
3.	Unfit for cultivation	55,895
4.	Mango gardens	3,421
5.	Bamboos	4,176
6.	Grazing ground	19,698
7.	Thatching-grass	3,972
8.	Milik } Measured separately ... ... {	912
9.	Kamsharah } Measured separately ... ... {	70
10.	Istimorar } Measured separately ... ... {	80
	Total ...	4,49,106

The figures in the above table do not shew accurately the quantity of milik, kamat and Istimorar land, as in the generality of instances the peshkars sub-divided the land under the different headings. The whole amount of land under these three classes stands as follows:—

	Acres.
Milik or rent-free land	34,825
Kamat or land reserved for the zemindar	3,750
Istimorar or land held at fixed rates in perpetuity ...	1,310

Deducting the area of the milik land (34,825 acres) and the land unfit for cultivation (55,895 acres) from the total area of the estate, the area of land assessed or liable to assessment is 358,386 acres; of this area, taking the proportions shewn in the table given above, it may roughly be estimated that 200,000 acres are under cultivation, 130,000 culturable and the rest, 28,000, occupied by mango and bamboo groves, thatching-grass and grazing land. The total demand of the estate for 1873-74 was Rs. 2,05,236, so that the assessment is at the average rate of only 1 rupee per acre on the cultivated land. The Government revenue amounts to Rs. 1,94,801. Comparing the area of the villages measured by the present survey with the area set down in the revenue survey records, the figures stand thus—

	Acres.
Area of the 294 villages measured	449,106
As per revenue survey	431,571
Difference ...	17,535

The Deputy Collector was unable satisfactorily to account for this difference: he attributed it partly to alluvion and partly to the boundaries of the fields not being shewn correctly by the putwaries and Jet ryots, which might lead to the same field being included in different villages. There may also have been errors in the revenue survey maps. The rates of rent prevalent in the pergunnah are abnormally low; they vary in almost every village. The land is divided into six classes (biras), not according to the quality, but according to the description of produce which happened to be growing on the land when the assessment was made in years gone by. Although the quality of the land may in the interval have changed either for the better or worse, yet the class has remained unaltered. These biras are—

1st.—Bira torkari or garden land producing ginger, turmeric, tobacco, &c.
2nd.—Bira shali, producing indigo, rice, &c.
3rd.—Bira ropa, heti and mochra, producing dhan once a year.
4th.—Bira chowmas, producing rubbee crops.
5th.—Bira jungle lands.
6th.—Bira grazing lands.

In regard to the miliks or rent-free holdings, the area of which is about 8 per cent of the total area surveyed, the Deputy Collector was strictly prohibited by the orders of Government from attempting any record of right; they have been held for many years rent-free, and efforts to assess them, contested even up to the High Court, have proved futile. The survey, however, will prevent the milikdars extending their holdings and encroaching on the Raj land. No further benefit has been acquired by the estate by the above survey.

SURVEY OF ALLAPORE.

Survey and settlement of pergunnah Allapore. Its cause and origin.

1. The circumstances out of which the survey and settlement of Allapore originated are stated in the Commissioner's report on Wards' Estates for 1875-76 thus—"The autumn of 1875 was dry; the autumn rice crops of these estates in some places yielded no rice crops at all. With the exception of a few villages lying on the Balan, the rice crop of pergunnahs Allapore and Nareedigur was indifferent. It was anticipated that not only the Court of Wards, but Government, would have to extend aid to the poverty-stricken and starving cultivators. A Commission

was appointed to report on the northern area affected by the drought, and on the state of the crops and condition of the people generally. The poverty-stricken condition of the tenants was remarked upon (by the Commission), allegations were made that a large number of the tenantry had fled from their homes to avoid the burden of debt due to enhanced rents which lay upon them too heavily, and to escape from importunities of rent receivers, and the oppressive and never-ending exactions of underlings." On these grounds it was deemed that a re-settlement of holdings and a revision of rents would be necessary in those parts of the estate which had suffered from the scarcity, and a special officer, Mr. Finucane, C.S., was appointed for the purpose of making a cadastral survey and re-adjustment of rent rates in pergunnah Allapore

Area surveyed in Allapore. Field season 1876-77.

2. The survey of Allapore was begun in March 1876. From March to June 1876 only twenty ameens were employed. Field work was stopped in June and was resumed in the beginning of November. From November 1876 to April 1877 a staff of 130 ameens was employed. The measurement of the whole pergunnah was completed by the middle of April 1877.

Comparison with revenue survey area.

The area of the villages surveyed in Allapore is, according to Mr. Finucane's survey, 157,737 acres. The area of the same villages, according to the professional revenue survey, was 158,483 acres—a difference of less than ½ per cent.

Comparison with area shown in putwaries' papers.

The following statement gives the results of the survey of Allapore as compared with the area given in the putwaries' jummabundies:—

Statement showing the comparison of areas according to Putwaries' jummabundies with present survey areas of Allapore Pergunnah.

		B.	K.	D.
CULTIVATED AND RENT-PAYING ...	According to putwaries' paper ...	80,274	8	5
	According to present survey ...	86,177	1	1
	Increase ...	5,902	12	16
CULTURABLE ...	According to putwaries' paper ..	32,785	14	18
	According to present survey ...	30,424	16	7
	Decrease ...	2,360	18	11
UNFIT FOR CULTIVATION	According to putwaries' paper ...	10,650	6	10
	According to present survey ...	13,086	18	11
	Increase ...	2,436	12	1
LAKHIRAJ (RENT-FREE)	According to putwaries' paper ...	4,823	1	15
	According to present survey ...	5,965	7	15
	Increase ...	1,142	6	0
TOTAL ...	According to putwaries' paper ...	1,28,533	11	8
	According to present survey ...	1,35,654	3	14
	Increase ...	7,120	12	6

Financial results of settlement of Allapore.

3. Allapore pergunnah contains 188 asli mouzahs and 134 dakhili—total 322. Of these, 168 asli and 128 dakhili now belong to the Raj. The remaining 26 mouzahs, comprising an area of 13,154 acres, formerly belonged to the Raj, but were assigned away by the Maharajah's ancestors by way of jaghir, inamat, &c. The 322 mouzahs appertaining to the Raj were, before the survey and settlement, arranged in 85 halquas or putwaries' circles, for each of which circle there was a separate jummabundi. The general result of the re-adjustment of rents was that the 85 existing halquas were classified as follows:—

A class irrigated from the Balan, in which existing rates varied from Rs. 5-8 to 4 dhanhar, from Rs. 4-8 to 3 bheet, per local bigha of 5,625 square yards. These rates were not altered ...

B class (irrigated from hill streams). In these halquas existing rates varied from Rs. 6-1 to 4 dhanhar and Rs. 5-8 to 3 bheet. These rates were reduced to Rs. 4-8 dhanhar and Rs. 3-12 bheet, where the prevailing rates exceeded these figures ... ...

C class non-irrigated. In these existing rates varied from Rs. 5-4 to 4 dhanhar and Rs. 4-4 to 3 bheet
These rates were reduced to where they stood before the last enhancement, *i.e.*, to Rs. 4-4 to 4 dhanhar and Rs. 3-8 for bheet ...

	Rs.	A.	P.
The total jumma at the old rates was in 1284 F. ...	3,53,873	6	6½
The total jumma at the revised rates for 1285 was ...	3,63,270	8	4½
Increase ...	9,397	1	10

The re-adjustment of rents, while affording very considerable relief to such of the ryots as were in need of relief, thus resulted not in a reduction of the rental payable to the Raj, but in an increase of over Rs. 9,300.

This increase is accounted for by the (1) assessment of excess lands which had been cultivated by putwaries, Jet ryots and others, but which were not shown in the jummabundi; (2) by the assessment of new fallow brought under cultivation during the progress of the settlement; and (3) by a more accurate adjustment of the rents of groves and bhaoli lands.

4. In the course of the settlement operations the list of Jet ryots was overhauled. The names of many who had been appointed by late ticcadars, and who rendered no services to the Raj in the collection of rents, were struck off, while specified (guches), allotted areas, were assigned to those whose names were retained.

Lakhiraj holdings.

5. The rights of lakhirajdars were not enquired into in the settlement of Allapore. A record of the facts as found was made, information was gathered, as far as it was possible to do so, showing the name of the present occupant of each lakhiraj tenure, the relation the present occupant bears to the original grantee, in consequence of which the former now claims the right to hold rent-free, the area he is supposed to hold under his *sanad*, and the area actually found in his possession. Many of the so-called lakhiraj tenures are believed to be legally invalid, but as the occupants are in most cases relatives or old retainers of the Maharajah's family, it was not deemed desirable that the Court of Wards should take upon itself to assess holdings which the Maharajah's ancestors allowed to be held without molestation. Moreover Sir George Campbell prohibited any crusade of this kind. The information recorded will, however, enable the Maharajah to institute suits for assessment of such 'taufir' lands as may have been fraudulently acquired in recent years. The legal right to assess such land, though it may not be exercised, will moreover give the Maharajah a hold over refractory brahmotardars, who it is well known are very often at the bottom of any recusancy shown by their less well-to-do fellow villagers.

Cost of Allapore survey.

6. The cost of the Allapore survey and settlement was Rs. 45,228, or 4 annas 2 pies per acre. For further and more detailed information regarding the survey and settlement of Allapore, reference may be made to Mr. Finucane's report submitted to the Board.

Interchange of pottahs and kabulyats in Allapore.

7. On the completion of the Allapore survey and settlement registers, orders were received to interchange pottahs and kabulyats with the ryots. The form of pottah adopted is that sanctioned for Government and Wards' Estates under Government orders No. 502A, dated 6th November 1876 (Board's Miscellaneous No. 210). These pottahs were for a term of four years, 1285 to 1288 F.

Two special sub-registrars were appointed for the registration of these leases, and they were stationed at Narayah. Under the old stamp law (section 15, clauses 9 and 10) agricultural leases and their counterparts were exempt from payment of stamp duty. Under the new stamp law (Act I of 1879) which came into force on 1st April last, agricultural leases for a term of more than a year were made chargeable with stamp duty to be paid by the lessee in the absence of any special agreement to the contrary. The counterpart lease, the fees on which would be payable by the zemindar, is exempted from duty. The form of pottah and kabulyat used up to 1st April 1879, being printed on plain paper, could no longer be used. New printed forms on stamped paper would have had to be provided, if the issue of four-year leases were continued. Moreover the ryots were unwilling to pay stamp duty in addition to registration and copying fees. There being no desire to eject ryots in Allapore, as long as they pay their rent, the chief advantage which the ryot

gains from a pottah is this, that the pottah, by specifying the exact area of every field in the ryot's possession, and the exact amount of his rent with the due dates and amounts of instalments, enables him to resist the exactions of putwaries, Jet ryots, or other underlings. This advantage is attained by a simple extract from the khatiani, or by a yearly pottah as effectually as by a pottah for a longer term. Under these circumstances, considering the difficulty of providing printed form of pottah on stamped paper, and the ryot's unwillingness to pay stamp duty in addition to registration and copying fees, it was decided to discontinue the issue of four-year leases, and to issue instead annual leases which need be neither stamped nor registered, and which may, if necessary, be renewed from year to year.

The following statement shows the total number of pottahs and kabulyats interchanged :—

Approximate number of ryots in Allapore	22,084
Number of four-year pottahs and kabulyats executed before 1st April interchanged	12,951
Number of yearly pottahs executed since 1st April interchanged up to 20th September 1879	7,719
Total ...	20,670
Approximate number to be interchanged	1,414*

The total cost of registration and copying pottahs and kabulyats has been Rs. 10,859-15, or 7 annas each, of which Rs. 8,068 were paid to the sub-registrars for registration and copying fees.

Survey and settlement of indigo zerat.

8. During the progress of the survey and settlement of pergunnah Allapore, the Officiating Manager, Major Money, proposed that a similar survey and re-adjustment of rents should be undertaken for the whole of the Raj estates in Tirhoot and Bhagulpore. This proposal was at first disapproved of by Government, on the ground that it was not expedient to attempt a cadastral survey and re-settlement of holdings, and thus to disturb existing arrangements just before the end of the minority, unless the Maharajah specially desired that such a survey should be undertaken. The Government, in withholding its sanction to the proposed survey of the whole estate, directed, however, that a revision of rent-rolls and re-settlement of zerat lands should be undertaken in the case of villages which had recently gone out of farm. In accordance with these orders a survey and re-settlement of the Pandoul indigo zerats was taken in hand in July 1877.

Principle on which indigo zerats were settled.

In the course of enquiries instituted with a view to the settlement of these zerats, it was ascertained that the outstanding rent balances shown in the putwaries' accounts as due from the Raj ryots to the factory were so heavy that it was futile to expect the ryots could ever pay what was alleged to be due by them. It was also found that many of the Raj ryots had given to the factory registered engagements for the cultivation of indigo on terms which appeared unprofitable to the ryots. These agreements were entered into while the factory held Raj villages in farm. It having been determined, on the expiration of the factory leases, that these villages should be managed on the seer system, it was deemed obviously desirable, in the interests of the proprietor as well as of the ryots, that the latter should be put in a position of independence as regards the factory, and left free to sow indigo or not as they pleased. It was anticipated that, if the factory claims against the ryots were not taken over by the Court of Wards, and if therefore the factory were, after the termination of the minority, to go on realizing, or attempting to realize, arrears of rent, while the management was realizing the current demand, serious complications would arise between the Maharajah and the factory. The ryots would appeal to the proprietor against the interference of the factory people, and make such interference an excuse for non-payment of rent to the Maharajah. For these reasons the Court of Wards decided to take over for a consideration all factory claims of every kind and description against Raj ryots.

* Of this number about 300 will be interchanged by the end of this month (September 1879).

An agreement (dated the 12th October 1877) was accordingly entered into between the Officiating Manager of the Raj and Mr. Gale, the manager of the Pandoul concern. Under this deed Mr. Gale agreed to make over to the Raj all claims held by him against Raj ryots for rent arrears or other balances, to transfer to the Raj Manager all decrees obtained against Raj ryots, also all pending suits and all engagements for cultivation of indigo or supply of carts. The Raj Manager on his part agreed to allow the factory a consolidated remission of Rs. 55,000, and to settle with the factory for four years all zerat lands then in its possession, with the exception of lands falling within 40 laggis (130 yards) of any homestead in any village, or hamlet of a village. Lands falling within 40 laggis of village homesteads were to be settled with the ryots in order to free them from the annoyance entailed by the cultivation of indigo up to their doors.

Mr. Finucane was instructed to map and survey the Pandoul zerats and to re-settle them on the principles described.

Results of survey and settlement of Pandoul zerat.

9. The following statement shows the results of the survey and settlement of the Pandoul zerats:—

	B.	K.	D.
Total area according to survey	9,244	8	3
Do. according to putwaries' jummabundies ...	8,741	14	14
Increase ...	502	13	9

This total area was in the settlement distributed as follows:—

	B.	K.	D.
(a) Settled with the factory	7,087	2	10
(b) Falling within 40 laggis of village sites and settled with the ryots	2,157	5	13

The rental of these zerats, as shown in the jummabundies, was—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Before the settlement	23,978	15	3½
The rental under the settlement is	30,925	6	10
Increase ...	6,946	7	6½

The cost of the survey and settlement of these zerats was Rs. 7,756.

Measurement and settlement of indigo zerats in other factories.

10. The indigo zerats belonging to the Narhar, Nowada, and Hatauri, concerns situated in Raj lands were measured and re-settled under the immediate supervision of the sub-managers and assistant manager on the same principles as were adopted in the case of Pandoul.

The settlements of indigo zerats, while resulting in an increased rental to the Raj, have placed the cultivation of indigo on these estates on an entirely satisfactory basis. The ryots are now completely independent of factory influence, all friction between them and factory people has ceased, and under these circumstances the cultivation of indigo on the Maharajah's estates cannot be other than beneficial.

Extension of the Cadastral Survey to the whole of the Raj estates in Tirhoot and Bhagulpore.

1. It has already been stated that when the Officiating Manager proposed in 1876 to carry out a survey and settlement of the whole estate similar to that of Allapore, the Bengal Government refused to sanction these operations unless the Maharajah personally and specially desired they should be undertaken. It was pointed out moreover that the orders of the Government of India, passed in 1872, when a survey of the whole estate was begun under the supervision of Mr. Jones, C.S., prohibited a general survey and revision of rent rates. The Maharajah, on receipt of these orders, addressed a letter

to Government in which he expressed his special desire to have his estate, or as much of it as possible, surveyed and mapped by the Court of Wards. He showed clearly and forcibly the advantages which he expected to accrue from such a survey, and he pointed out the difficulty of managing so vast an estate without accurate measurement records and maps of the holdings in each ryot's possession.

The Bengal Government then assented to the proposal, and moved the Government of India to cancel the orders of 1872 which prohibited a general survey.

The Governor-General, in acceding to the request of the local Government, commended the personal interest taken by the Maharajah in the management of his estate and the insight into the details of management which his letter displayed.

Under-Secretary to Government of Bengal, to Secretary, Board of Revenue, No. 275 of 26th January 1878.

The orders of Government sanctioning the survey were conveyed in the letter noted in the margin, and were received in the beginning of February 1878. The operations sanctioned for the whole estate differed from those carried out in Allapore to this extent, that, whereas in Allapore rent rates were revised, and new rent-rolls were framed at the revised rates and survey areas, the operations for the rest of the estate were restricted to a cadastral survey with chain and plane-table, and a record of rates actually paid, it being left for the Maharajah on the attainment of his majority to frame new jummabundies on the survey areas. The work was placed under the supervision of Mr. Finucane, C.S.

Progress of survey of the whole estate.

2. It was anticipated that five parties, each under the immediate supervision of a Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collector, would be able to complete the survey of the whole estate before the end of the minority. It was found, however, after asking the assistance of the Commissioners of Bhagulpore, of the North-Western Provinces, and of the Superintendent of Sone Irrigation and Behar Cadastral Surveys, that only three parties could be organized. The services of Deputy Collectors Baboos Bhagwan Chunder Sen and Kasturi Lal were placed at the disposal of the Court of Wards for the supervision of two of these parties. The third party was placed at first under Mr. Low, and afterwards under Mr. O'Donel, lately of the Revenue Survey Department. The parties under Baboos Bhagwan Chunder Sen and Kasturi Lal were employed from March to August 1878 in surveying part of pergunnah Nareedigur in the Bhagulpore district. The third party under Mr. Low was employed in pergunnah Buchour of the Durbhunga district.

Area surveyed in field season 1877-78.

3. In addition to the demarcation of village boundaries, the following area was surveyed cadastrally by each of these parties from March to August 1878, when field operations were stopped owing to the rains:—

Name of party.		Average number of ameens employed.	Area measured. B.	R.	D.
Baboo Bhagwan Chunder Sen's party	...	50	36,102	8	11
„ Kasturi Lal's	„ ...	57	43,391	9	17
Mr. Low's	„ ...	35	14,296	1	5
	Total ...	142	93,789	19	13

The small outturn of work during this period (1877-78) is due to the fact that the field season had nearly passed before operations could be begun, and to a considerable degree likewise to the difficulty experienced in causing the attendance of the putwaries and Jet ryots to point out their lands. The officers who supervised the survey had, it is to be remembered, no legal powers to enforce the attendance of anybody.

Field season 1878-79.

Baboo B. C. Sen, beginning of December 1878.

4. The field was again taken by the survey parties on the dates noted in the margin. Mr. Low resigned his appointment in August 1878. Sub-Deputy Collector Srinath Chatterjee was appointed in Mr. Low's place in November, but that officer having failed to take

Baboo Kasturi Lal, middle of November 1878.

Mr. O'Donel, 1st February 1879.

charge of his party, there was nobody available for the supervision of the third party, till Mr. O'Donel was appointed on 1st February 1879.

Circles assigned to each party, 1878-79.

The Rohika sub-manager's circle was assigned to Baboo Bhagwan Chunder Sen's party for measurement during this field season. The Koryah circle was assigned to Mr. O'Donel's party, and the Jhanjharpore circle, with what remained over last season of the Nareedigur circle, was assigned to Baboo Kasturi Lal's party.

Area measured by each party during field season 1878-79 to end of field operations.

The area measured by each party from the resumption of field operations to the end of July is as follows:—

Name of party.		Area measured.	Average number of ameens employed.	REMARKS.
		B. K. D.		
Baboo Bhagwan Chunder Sen's party		98,653 4 0	65	
	A. R. P.			
,, Kasturi Lal's party—				
Nareedigur circle	39,613 10 0	145,460 18 6	81	
Jhanjharpore ,, ...	105,847 8 6			
Mr. O'Donel's party		78,319 9 2	52	
Total ...		322,433 11 8		

From the beginning of March 1878 to the end of July 1879, when field operations were closed, the three parties completed the survey of the Nareedigur, Koryah, Jhanjharpore, and Rohika sub-managers' circles, with the exception of one village (Udai Rampore) in Jhanjharpore, and three villages in Rohika circle. The total area surveyed during this period is 4,16,223 bighas, or 397,726 acres.

Results of present survey compared with revenue survey and with putwaries' papers.

5. The following statement shows the difference between the present survey areas and professional-revenue-survey areas for the area surveyed in 1878-79, *i.e.*, for the Jhanjharpore, Rohika, Koryah, and Nareedigur circles:—

	A.	R.	P.
Total area of villages surveyed in 1878-79 ...	397,726	0	32
Total area of same villages according to revenue survey	396,375	1	1
Difference	1,350	3	31
Percentage of difference on total area	0·3		

REMARKS.—This difference is even less than what is allowed in the cadastral surveys conducted by the professional revenue survey parties.

6. The following statement gives a comparison of the present survey areas with the areas shown in the putwaries' jummabundies for the area surveyed in 1878-79:—

	Cultivated and rent-paying.	Not cultivated, but rent-paying, such as gachhis, &c.	Lakhiraj.	NOT CULTIVATED, BUT CULTURABLE.		Ghair mumkin.	Total.
				Parti jadid.	Parti quadim.	Non-culturable.	
	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
According to putwaries' papers ...	2,42,525 9 11½	22,184 17 7	29,196 13 18	22,284 6 15	38,208 17 10½	37,721 10 4	3,92,121 15 6
According to present survey ...	2,61,596 8 6½	30,813 7 2	33,107 7 18	16,552 14 1½	32,573 16 14½	41,579 8 7	4,16,223 2 10
Increase	19,070 18 15	8,628 9 15	3,910 14 0	.....	.....	3,857 18 3	24,101 7 4
Decrease	.....	.....	.....	5,731 12 13½	5,635 0 15½	.....	.....

It will be seen from the foregoing statements that the survey operations of 1878-79, that is to say, the operations carried on since the completion of Allapore, have resulted in an increase of—

B.	K.	D.	
27,699	8	10	in the rent-paying area.
3,910	14	0	in lakhiraj area.
31,610	2	10	

These 31,000 bighas, if assessed at present average rates, would yield an increase in rental of about Rs. 1,24,000 per annum, which it will be seen represent 72 per cent of the entire cost of the survey of this area.

Resumé of results of entire survey carried on at Tirhoot and Bhagulpore inclusive of Allapore.

7. The total area measured from the beginning of survey operations under supervision of Mr. Finucane is as follows :—

	According to revenue survey.	According to present survey.	Difference.	Percentage in total area.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Area of Allapore surveyed in 1876-77 ...	158,483	157,737	746	0·4
Area surveyed in 1878-79	396,375	397,726	1,351	0·3
Total ...	554,858	555,463	605	0·1

7a. The comparison of putwaries' areas with results of the survey for the whole area measured under Mr. Finucane's supervision, inclusive of Allapore, stands thus —

	Cultivated and rent-paying.	Not cultivated, but rent-paying, such as gachhij, &c.	Lakhiraj.	Not cultivated, but culturable.		Ghair mumkin.	Total.
				Parti jadid.	Parti quadim.		
	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.	B. K. D.
According to putwaries' papers ..	3,20,375 10 1½	24,609 5 2	34,019 15 13	39,056 16 2	54,222 3 1½	48,371 16 14	5,20,655 6 14
According to what ascertained under supervision of Mr. Finucane ...	3,42,827 10 2½	35,759 6 7	39,072 15 13	33,784 17 3½	45,766 9 19½	54,666 6 18	5,51,877 6 4
Increase	22,452 0 1	11,150 1 5	5,053 0 0	.....	.....	6,294 10 4	31,221 10 10
Decrease	.....	.....	.....	5,271 18 18½	8,455 13 1½	.....	.....

8. The total cost of the survey and settlement operations carried on under Mr. Finucane in Tirhoot and Bhagulpore, inclusive of Allapore, is as follows :—

Cost of the survey and settlement and financial results.

	Rs.
Allapore circle	45,228
Koryah, Rohika Jhanjharpore, and Nareedigur circles... ...	1,72,543
Total ...	2,17,771

or per acre Rs. 0-6-1.

The settlements of Allapore and of Mr. Gale's zerats alone have already resulted in an increase on the rental of the estate of nearly Rs. 16,000, or 7½ per cent on the gross outlay upon the whole estate. If to this were to be added the increase in rental which would accrue by applying existing rates to the excess areas found in the four circles recently surveyed, but not yet settled, the increase would stand thus—

	Rs.
(*a*) Increase in rental already obtained by settlement of Allapore and of Pandoul zerats	16,000
(*b*) Increase which would accrue from assessing at existing rates the excess in Narideegur, Koryah, Rohika, and Jhanjharpore circles	1,24,000
Total ...	1,40,000

or 63 per cent of the entire cost of survey and settlement.

It will be remembered that the cost as here given includes charges for stationery, printing, instruments, binding registers, &c., all of which had to be procured and paid for by the Court of Wards as in the case of a private zemindar.

Area remaining to be measured.

The total area of the Tirhoot and Bhagulpore estates is, so far as known, about 700,000 acres. Of this more than 550,000 acres have been surveyed, leaving about 150,000 acres in the Hyaghat, Parihar, and Jalley circles still to be measured.

9. The records are written in the local character (Kaithi). Fair copies were made and are neatly bound in separate volumes for each mouzah. The registers contain—

Survey records.

1*st.*—The khasrah or record of fields taken in topographical order.
2*nd.*—Khatiani or abstract of fields in possession of each individual ryot.
3*rd.*—The terij assamiwar, giving the total area in each ryot's possession.
4*th.*—List of tanks.
5*th.*—List of groves.
6*th.*—List of wells.
7*th.*—Jiniswar statement, giving abstract of area under each crop and combination of crops.
8*th.*—Abstract of dofusli land.
9*th.*—Statement of rent-free tenures, showing area each lakhirajdar is supposed to hold according to putwaries' papers, and area actually found in his possession.
10*th.*—Arsattah or abstract of village area.
11*th.*—Khanasumari or village census.
12*th.*—Abstract of khanasumari or village census showing total number of persons of each caste.
13*th.*—Final report.

10. The maps are on the scale of one inch to the local bigha. Fair copies are traced on vellum, mounted on strong cloth.

Demarcation of boundaries.

The village boundaries were demarcated according to the revenue survey boundary maps—in Baboo Bhagwan Chunder Sen's and Mr. O'Donel's circles—by chain and plane-table, and in Baboo Kasturi Lal's circle with the theodolite. Baboo Kasturi Lal also had the areas of villages in his circle made out by traverse.

Merits of officers.

11. Mr. Finucane reports himself satisfied with the officers who worked under him.

12. I cannot write too highly of the energy and zeal with which Mr. Finucane has conducted the important and arduous duties entrusted to him. The thoroughness and care with which the survey records have been compiled and prepared call for special commendation, and the Maharajah's high appreciation of his services is practically evinced by his having applied to Government to be permitted to retain them for another year to enable the survey of the whole estate to be completed by the officer who has so successfully conducted it to its present stage. Sanction to this proposal has, I believe, been accorded.

CHAPTER XVII.

Law cases, decrees, &c.

Numerous and varied claims were instituted against and by the estate as soon as it was brought under the management of the Court of Wards. Among the most important in 1861 may be noted the four suits instituted by the heirs of Syud Abdulla of Patna, viz. by Syud Lootf Ali Khan for Rs. 2,79,010-11-8, by Syud Wallayet Hossein for Rs. 12,887-2-7½, by Syud Kassim Ali, Wallayet Ali Khan, Mussamut Ashmutul-nissa Begum, Mussamut Ashurful-nissa Begum, and Mussamut Noor Chusman Begum for Rs. 2,19,119, and by Syud Mahomed Hossein Khan for Rs. 25,779 respectively against the Raj which were decided in favour of the plaintiffs. They were for the recovery of a bond debt due to the said Abdulla by the late Maharajah, chiefly for jewelery. All of them accepted the decision of the Judge in their favour except Walayet Ali and Syud Lootf Ali Khan. The latter preferred an appeal to the High Court on the ground that, as he did not actually receive his share of the payment made by the late Maharajah, the lower court ought not to have given him a decree which had the effect of deducting the same from his claim. Subsequently he filed a petition to the effect that the question of the distribution of the above payment had been amicably settled between him and his co-claimants, but he preferred a fresh objection as to the method of calculation adopted by the lower court.

The decree was accordingly amended so far as the question of distribution went, but as to the amount of interest, the decretal order was open to contention, and the Raj therefore applied for the review of the above order, and was successful. The decree-holder applied for execution of decree, when the question of interest was again agitated, and it ended by an appeal to the High Court, decided in favour of the decree-holder. The decreed amount was paid by the Raj. In the same manner Syed Walayet Hossein Khan and the remaining co-claimants also realized in execution of their decrees the amount that fell due to them in accordance with the order of the High Court, as it was not thought proper to dispute the execution proceedings, especially as it was believed that the excess payment might be subsequently recovered. With respect to Walayet Ali Khan's case he obtained a decree for the sum claimed by him, and the decretal amount was paid as stated above; but he preferred objections similar to those urged by his co-claimant, Syed Lootf Ali Khan. His petition was rejected by the zillah court, when he appealed to the High Court, who revised the lower court's order and awarded him a decree in full, including a larger sum as interest than the actual principal. I had but recently taken charge when this decision was arrived at, and being convinced that our case had not been fully and properly represented, I earnestly solicited sanction to apply for review of judgment, but Mr. Commissioner Jenkins was pleased to differ. Application for review was not made, and the enormous sum of Rs. 1,55,378 for compound interest was paid.

2. In the following year Seosahai Paiti claimed Rs. 5,44,990 principal, and Rs. 5,36,587 interest, for goods supplied for marriage and funeral ceremonies. We contested the claim, and it was finally amicably adjusted by a payment to the plaintiff of Rs. 50,000.

3. Jhoomuck Chowdry preferred a claim of Rs. 2,56,715 on account of stable expenses. He was ultimately awarded Rs. 68,979, and subsequent interest, against which was adjusted a decree obtained by the Raj of Rs. 74,938.

4. Rughoonundun Thakoor instituted a suit for Rs. 77,721, advanced by him over and above the amount he owed to the Raj as a ticcadar, which was amicably settled by his executing a bond for the sum still really due by him.

5. In 1864 Jhoomuck Chowdry sued us for Rs. 23,100 on the basis of a chitta given to him by the late Maharajah; his claim was dismissed. Bucha Gope claimed Rs. 35,289, price of ghee and dahi. The lower court awarded him Rs. 508 only. We appealed, and he got nothing.

6. In 1865 the Raj instituted a suit against Ramadheen Sahoo, Jhoomuck Chowdry, and Hulla Chowdhrain, to cancel a spurious deed of sale, and an order of court confirming the same, and also to obtain an order for the realization of a decreed amount due by defendant No. 2. After protracted litigation we were successful.

7. In 1866 the Raj instituted a claim against several defendants on account of zurdustoorat on the basis of a parwana dated 24th February 1780, issued by the Provincial Court of Patna. The lower court decided in our favour, but we lost the case on appeal.

8. I may here mention that after I assumed charge, finding large sums as due to the Raj under this head, I contested some further cases of the above nature, but with no ultimate success. I then took legal advice on the expediency of instituting further such suits in court, and was advised not to do so, the fact being that the above-quoted parwana was granted to Maharajah Madho Singh for his personal services as an Amil to the Mahomedan Government. No hereditary title to the levy of the amount was therein conveyed, and though of their own free will the Maliks continued to pay the demand to the Maharajah's ancestors, they nearly all ceased to do so on learning the result of the above cases. Still, as it has been thought possible that, out of personal respect to the present Maharajah after attaining his majority, some may be willing to pay, the demand has been left on our books, merely, I fear, to add to the sum total of irrecoverable arrears.

9. In 1867 the only important case instituted against us was by one Billo Chowdhrain for Rs. 38,281, for the half-share of a property we had established our right to in execution of a decree against another party who had fraudulently sold the same to one from whom the above purchased it. The court decided in our favour by cancelling the fraudulent deed of sale.

10. In 1868 the wealthy banker Bunwaree Lall Sahoo appealed against an old rent case of Rs. 30,905, decreed in our favour. Owing to the mysterious loss of some of the papers in transit to the High Court, the case was remanded. We again got a decree, which was confirmed by the High Court. The banker applied for review of judgment; this was refused, and he was cast in all costs.

11. In 1869, as in almost every subsequent year, we had to institute suits for recovery of surplus Government revenue paid in by us over and above our share on ijmalee villages, owing to the default of other shareholders. We generally, of course, obtained decrees, but lost several from the difficulty experienced in getting the correct names of the heirs of deceased registered shareholders.

12. Several suits were filed by and against us, and were carried on to succeeding years. In 1869 Nokhey Lall Sahoo and Bissessur Lall Sahoo, bankers, appealed a case specially deserving of notice to the Privy Council.

They had submitted to the Manager an alleged tunkha of the late Maharajah for Rs. 92,084-13-3 for cloth supplied. The bill was accepted as correct by Mr. Forlong, and the sanction of the Court of Wards duly obtained to the payment thereof. It was then, however, discovered, by a duplicate account found among some old records, that the tunkha had been tampered with, and payment was refused. They sued us for Rs. 1,88,341-11-6, and, losing their case in the lower court, appealed to Calcutta, where it was decided that they were only entitled to Rs. 12,751-11. They had the audacity to appeal to the Privy Council, where I, in response, declined to acknowledge their claim to anything, and the result was an award in our favour for costs amounting to Rs. 3,884-11.

13. In the year 1870 the important case of Raj (defendant-appellant), *versus* Maharaj Koomar Baboo Ramapat Singh (plaintiff-respondent) was decided finally by the Privy Council. It arose from the execution of a decree in the Principal Sudder Amin's court of Tirhoot taken out by the plaintiff, who cited certain properties of the late Goorpershad Mahtha, which had been previously purchased in execution of decrees against Chowaroo Koomar, the widow of that Mahtha. We protested against the citation, and the Principal Sudder Amin decided in our favour. In 1868 the plaintiff brought a regular suit in the Subordinate Judge's court laying his claim at Rs. 19,066-15 with the averment that the properties were justly liable to be sold in satisfaction of his decrees. In December 1868 the Subordinate Judge dismissed his claim, and in January 1869 he preferred an appeal to the High Court. The High Court reversed the decision of the Subordinate Judge, declaring that the Court of Wards only purchased the rights and interest of Chowaroo Koomar, whatever they might be, but that the plaintiff, having a decree against the estate of Goorpershad Mahtha of a prior date to that of the Court of Wards, had a prior right thereto as the representative of Goorpershad, the judgment-debtor of the plaintiff. We filed a petition for review in the High Court, but the result was unfavorable to us, and in September 1869 we filed an appeal in Privy Council. The Lords of Her Majesty's Council upset the order of the High Court and awarded the Raj its costs, amounting to Rs. 2,714.

14. In 1871, besides numerous suits of a trivial nature, two special appeals were disposed of by the High Court. In one of these two, Joypergash Singh and others were the plaintiffs special appellants, Himmat Ali, the widow of Kodai Singh, our judgment-debtor, and the Court of Wards were the three defendants respondents. In execution of the decree obtained by the Raj against the said Kodai Singh, his property was sold up in satisfaction thereof and purchased by Himmat Ali. Joypergash Singh and others brought a regular suit in the Subordinate Judge's court to set aside the sale, alleging the property to be theirs. We had no grounds to defend the suit and did not do so, consequently the plaintiffs obtained a decree against Himmat Ali; the purchaser appealed to the Judge, who reversed the order of the Subordinate Judge. The plaintiffs, dissatisfied with this order, preferred a special appeal to the High Court which was dismissed. and the Raj was awarded a decree for costs amounting to Rs. 108. In the other, Choto Oghain was the plaintiff special appellant, and we, the defendants respondent. We had caused 51 beeghas of brohomottur land to be sold in execution of a decree obtained by the Raj against Balmookoond Jha, judgment-debtor. Choto Oghain filed a protest, which was rejected. She then instituted a regular suit, which the Subordinate Judge decreed in our favour. Choto Oghain appealed to the Judge, who confirmed the order of the court of first

instance but the appellant again preferred a special appeal to the High Court, who dismissed it.

15. In the year 1872 the total number of suits for disposal during the year was 67, of which 22 were appeals and 45 original suits. Two cognate cases were suits instituted against us by Surrendur Prashad as a pauper. The plaintiff's father owned a village named Chundersenpore and certain brohomottur land in mouzah Simree. When the plaintiff was a minor, village Chundersenpore was sold in execution of a decree for debts due by his father, and purchased by Maharaj Koomar Baboo Basdeo Singh, and the brohomottur lands were privately sold by the father to Nandan Misser, who offered the lands for sale to Basdeo Singh, and gave him possession in anticipation of payment of the purchase-money and of the execution of the deed of sale. Meanwhile, Basdeo Singh having died without male issue, his estate, with the said mouzah and brohomottur land, reverted to the Raj according to the family custom ; consequently the sale price of the brohomottur land, which had remained unpaid, was paid by the Court of Wards. The plaintiff, on attaining his majority, brought these suits for cancellation of the said sales, valuing them at Rs. 48,993-12 and Rs. 6,077, respectively, on the allegation that his father had extravagantly incurred debts for which the properties were sold, that the sales were illegal under the Mitakshra law, and that he had an equal right with his father. The court considered the debts incurred by the plaintiff's father, and the execution of decree in which mouzah Chundersenpore was sold, as sufficient legal necessity for the sale of the property and dismissed the plaintiff's claim. The plaintiff thereupon appealed to the High Court, who remanded the cases for re-trial to the Subordinate Judge ; who, being satisfied that sufficient legal necessity existed, decided them in our favour. He again appealed, but in vain, the cases being decided in our favour in December 1874.

16. In 1873 an important case in which the Raj was involved was one against Podom Lall Chowdhry, defendant-appellant. This originated from the execution of a decree against our judgment-debtor, Mosaheb Das, in which we caused his right and interest in ten annas share of mouzah Waleepore to be attached. Podom Lall Chowdhry protested against the attachment, and the court allowed his objection. This suit was instituted to establish the title of our judgment-debtor, Mosaheb Das, in mouzah Waleepore. The court of first instance gave us a decree from which the defendant filed a regular appeal in the High Court, who decided the case against us. Besides the above, there were several other original suits and appeals, with varying results.

17. In the succeeding year, 1874, the total number of suits for disposal was 50, against 88 of the year preceding. One important case was that of the Raj, plaintiff *vs.* Gopal Singh and Baborey Lal Singh, defendants. Mouzah Rarhmulmul was provisionally settled with Gopal Singh, subject to revision of jummabundee ; but no pottah or kubuliyut were executed, pending sanction of the Court of Wards, which, however, was not accorded. Meanwhile Gopal Singh retained possession of the mehal throughout the fuslee years 1878-79 and paid a portion of the rent only, leaving a heavy balance of Rs. 5,738 due from him. We instituted a suit for that amount, but Gopal Singh pleaded that the mehal was not settled with him, but with Baborey Lal Singh. The fact was that Gopal Singh had taken the village in the name of Baborey Lal Singh a pauper ; but being satisfied that he was the real ticcadar, we made him the principal defendant in the case. We obtained a decree in the zillah court, against which Gopal Singh appealed, but in vain, to the High Court.

18. Another case of importance was that of Bissessur Lal Sahoo, plaintiff, *vs.* Court of Wards and others, defendants. It originated from the sale of mouzah Muddanpore in execution of our decrees, one against Mosaheb Das, the second against Baboo Nath Das and his son Ramnath Das, and the third against Baboonath Das, who was the father of Ramnath and grandfather of Mosaheb Das. At the auction sale the mouzah was purchased by us, crediting the sale porceeds to all our three decrees. The plaintiff, claiming to have purchased the right and interest of the shares of Mosaheb Das and his brother Chammun Das, brought this suit for Rs. 36,628, including interest, being the sale proceeds of his vendor's share, and asserted that we had no right to appropriate the sale proceeds, inasmuch as the Raj was only entitled to sell the share of

Ramnath Das, the recorded proprietor of Muddanpore, which was not liable to sale in satisfaction of other decrees against Baboonath Das and Mosaheb Das. The suit was instituted in the Subordinate Judge's court, but decided by the Additional Judge against us, who held that the order originally made by the Subordinate Judge in the execution department for the consolidation of the three decrees was illegal. We appealed to the High Court with success. The plaintiff then appealed to the Privy Council, who have just dismissed his appeal and awarded us all costs.

19. In 1875, twelve suits were instituted and thirteen were pending from preceding year. Of the four appeal cases in the High Court, two were filed by the Raj and two against us. All have been decided in our favour, but call for no special notice.

20. There were numerous petty rent-suits in 1876. A suit was instituted by the Raj against Bibi Majidan, the widow, and others, the heirs of Sheik Nubeebux, for recovery of Rs. 958-5, misappropriated by the deceased while in the service of the Raj as mukhtear. We succeeded in obtaining a decree for the sum claimed; the defendant appealed to the District Judge, who upheld the decree of the lower court, and the sum due has been realized.

21. Five hundred suits were instituted in 1877 for the recovery of money lent on bonds during the late famine, amounting to Rs. 1,16,669.

22. Kamal Thakoor sued the Raj for right and confirmation of possession of 2 annas 12 gundas 1 cowri, out of 16 annas of mouzah Dhurrumpore, pergunnah Akbarpore. The plaintiff claimed the above as inherited by him, and applied for the cancellation of the Collector's order, dated 22nd December 1875, rejecting his protest, which he had filed in the butwarah proceedings of the village aforenamed. The village was brought under partition at the instance of the Raj, Kari Thakoor and others. The Raj had applied for the butwarah of the Putty consisting of 3 annas 2 gundas 1 cowri 2 dhoors 2 krantis, stating, as a precautionary measure, that for the remainder of 3 annas 10 gundas it would file a regular suit thereafter; but in the butwarah subsequently made, a Putty, consisting of 3 annas 2 gundas 1 cowri 2 dhoors and 2 pone instead of 3 annas 10 gundas was allotted to us. The plaintiff succeeded in getting a modified decree for 2 annas 11 gundas 1 cowri 2 dhoors and 7 ren.

23. In the year 1877, an important suit was brought by Messrs. Charrier and Chisholm, contractors, Dinapore, against this Raj for Rs. 9,637-7-7, with cost and interest on account of a balance which they alleged was due to them by the Raj Executive Engineer for road work done by them during the famine. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Stevens, deposed that he had paid them in full, their claim being based on preliminary but incorrect measurement. We contested the claim strictly on Mr. Stevens' testimony, but the court decided that the measurements which Mr. Stevens objected to must be accepted as the correct ones, and gave the plaintiffs a decree accordingly. I considered the decision unfair, and under legal advice applied for permission to appeal, but the higher authorities objected.

24. The suit instituted against Baboos Giridhari Singh and Doorga Dut Singh in 1878-79 amounting to Rs. 8,75,744, has been duly reported on in Chapter XX, Investments.

25. Another suit of great importance has been recently instituted by the Raj against the Secretary of State of India and others in the Subordinate Judge's court, Bhagulpore, for the recovery of possession of the diluviated land of the Raj,—mouzahs Rusoolpore, Mukhdoom, and Soobanepore, pergunnah Emadpore, zillah Monghyr,—the land so diluviated reformed on the Patna side of the river Ganges, and there are sufficient proofs to identify the same by visible land marks. The value of our claim is Rs. 35,089-0-2½, and the quantity of land claimed is 2,825 beeghas.

26. In 1878 Messrs. Charrier and Chisholm tried another suit against us for Rs. 2,553-13-11, principal, and Rs. 638-7-6, interest; total Rs. 3,192-5-5. The plaintiffs claimed the above sum as the balance of price of coal and lime supplied in October 1873 and August 1874. We replied that the amount claimed represented the deductions made from the plaintiffs' bill on account of the expense of carting the coal to Durbhunga from Rooserah, to which place only they had conveyed it, instead of, according to agreement, to Durbhunga.

They lost and we were awarded costs; they appealed to the Judge of Patna who upheld the decision of the lower court.

Khurruckpore.

27. The most important suit in which the Raj is a party is that connected with Rajah Leelanund Sing's old claim for a vast tract of jungle land comprising most of the bunker and boondee mehals in Khurruckpore. The suit for Rs. 14,20,000 and for recovery of about 1,75,000 beeghas of land comprised in those mehals with mesne profits from 1248F was brought by the abovementioned Rajah in the Principal Sudder Amin's Court, Bhagulpore, who dismissed it on the 9th July 1855, observing that the plaintiff had failed to establish his title. On appeal to the late Sudder Court on the 14th April 1857, the Judges confirmed the above court's decision. The plaintiff thereupon appealed to the Privy Council who passed a decision on 29th June 1865, declaring that he was entitled to two mouzahs named Goormaha and Ghorakhor, and directing the High Court to enquire as to the nature and character of the bunker and boondee mehals, and to show how much of the same belonged to Havellee Khurruckpore. In 1866 the case was sent by the High Court to the Judge of Bhagulpore to make the enquiries ordered, which were completed and judgment given by that officer on the 22rd September 1867. The High Court on the 2nd March 1870 disposed of the cases with only a partial decree against us. An appeal to the Privy Council was preferred on the part of the Raj and a cross appeal was preferred by the other party with respect to that portion of his claim which was rejected by the High Court. With regard to the Privy Council's order of 1865 declaring that the plaintiff was entitled to possession of the two mouzahs Goormaha and Ghorakpore, Rajah Leelanund Singh again appealed to the Privy Council for an order to award him the mesne profits thereof from 1248F, which the Council had omitted to do in the first instance. The Rajah succeeded in the appeal, and having been put in possession of the said two mouzahs in 1870-71, applied to the Bhagulpore civil court for adjudication of the mesne profits; the case is still pending, but will probably be enquired into when the court re-opens. The decisions of the Privy Council dated 26th May 1865 and 17th December 1875 have reduced the area of the Khurruckpore portion of this estate from about 190 to 150 square miles, of which some two thousand beeghas of good land which were erroneously made over to the plaintiff, Rajah Leelanund Singh, under the first decision of 1865 on 14th September 1870, were restored to the Durbhunga Raj on 27th April last; against this restoration Leelanund Singh has again appealed to the Privy Council, where the case is pending. I proposed an amicable compromise of this case some years ago, but the Commissioner of Bhagulpore would not consent to accept the responsibility. In March last I persuaded the Maharajah to accompany me to Purneah with the view of arranging a compromise with Rajah Leelanund Singh; they met and the latter agreed to withdraw his appeals to the Privy Council, but his son and heir refused to agree, and the matter was allowed to drop.

Purneah.

28. The law suits in Purneah during the minority have been chiefly against farmers and ryots for arrears of rent. None of these call for any special notice. When it is considered how much of the estate is situated on the Ganges and Kosi river, it is extraordinary how few cases of disputed boundaries have been brought before the civil court. The chief opponent has been Baboo Lekhraj Rai, who has fought for lands in the Ganges Dearah villages with varying fortune, but the boundaries remain very much the same as shown by the Government survey of 1846-47.

Butwarah.

29. Butwarah suits were brought by the Raj for the partition of ijmalee mehals during the minority, but the most important one deserving special notice in this report is that of part of the town of Durbhunga comprising an area of over 4,000 beeghas, some 631 of which are in the first division known as kherejat julkur and bunkur, and the rest in the other part known as the minhai. The proprietors of the former adroitly contrived when the thak map was prepared to get the minhai portion included in their lot. The minhaidars, including the Raj which is a large shareholder, protested, and the Superintendent of Survey issued a rubokar on 19th September 1849, to the effect that his survey would

not affect the rights of the minhaidars. The shareholders of the former or nizamut portion applied for partition in 1856, but we and others strenuously opposed the same owing to the above, and the question is still undecided.

Registration under the Land Registration Act VII of 1876.

30. In pursuance of the enactment of Act VII of 1876, the Raj applied for the registration of the Maharajah's name respecting 178 mehals, 170 of which have been duly registered; the claim of the Raj to the remaining eight was disputed, and its application for registration refused.

These eight mehals are not entire villages; the Raj held small and nominal shares in them under purchases made at auction sale of the right and interest of judgment-debtors. We were never in peaceful possession, but it was thought proper to endeavour to register our claims, and efforts are still being made to trace out sufficient evidence to establish, through the competent civil court, the Raj title in those cases.

Separation of accounts.

31. During the minority we applied for separation of account in ten ijmalee mehals. In one of these, mouzah Behta, the application for separation of account was rejected owing to there being a dispute as to the Raj share, but the matter has been since settled under the Land Registration Act.

Number of cases.

32. I hereto attach statements A, B, C, D, and E. A shows the number of suits instituted and disposed of each year from the commencement of the Court of Wards' management up to the end of the minority in Tirhoot; B the amount covered by the civil suit decrees in Tirhoot; C the rent suit decrees in Tirhoot; D shows, year by year, the number of decrees awarded, realized, and balance outstanding in the Dhurumpore estate, from 1871-72 up to September 1879, no return of prior date being available; E, those connected with the Bhagulpore portion. A very large proportion of the outstanding balances is of old standing, in which every effort has been made to trace the properties of the debtors; but, as elsewhere noted, in most of these cases the debtors are paupers, and many have disposed of their property to defraud the Raj of its just dues.

A.

List of Suits instituted and Disposed of since the commencement of the Court of Wards' Management up to the end of the Minority in Tirhoot.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Serial number	Official year.	Number of civil suits.	Number of rent suits.	Number of miscellaneous suits.	Total number of columns 3, 4, and 5.	Number of suits decided in favor of the Raj.	Number of suits settled by compromise.	Number of suits withdrawn.	Number of suits decided against Raj.	Total number of columns 7, 8, and 9.	Number of suits pending.
1	1861-62	172	186	4	362	212	29	.....	121	241	.....
2	1862-63	29	437	2	468	304	41	5	28	440	.....
3	1863-64	22	53	.....	75	45	17	.....	13	62	.....
4	1864-65	16	62	1	79	60	8	.....	11	68	.....
5	1865-66	23	104	1	128	94	20	.....	14	114	.....
6	1866-67	19	59	7	85	47	30	.....	8	77	.....
7	1867-68	10	48	4	62	54	3	.....	5	57	.....
8	1868-69	43	41	7	91	68	5	.....	18	73	.....
9	1869-70	25	49	1	75	47	10	.....	18	57	.....
10	1870-71	42	44	3	89	55	5	.....	29	60	.....
11	1871-72	24	73	2	99	74	11	.....	14	85	.....
12	1872-73	26	81	3	110	98	4	.....	8	102	.....
13	1873-74	38	78	.....	116	94	7	.....	15	101	.....
14	1874-75	14	81	1	96	72	13	.....	10	85	1
15	1875-76	7	66	3	76	53	13	.....	9	66	1
16	1876-77	21	122	1	144	123	5	.....	15	128	1
17	1877-78	509	679	180	1,368	1,198	35	55	30	1,288	50
18	1878-79	68	262	1	331	275	9	2	40	286	5
19	From April to September 1879	23	203	.....	226	73	5	.....	5	78	143
	Total ...	1,131	2,728	221	4,080	3,130	270	62	411	3,468	201

B.

Civil Suits' Decrees.

Statement showing year by year the total amount of the decreed sums and the amount realized and balance outstanding from commencement of Court of Wards' period of management up to March 1879.

Official year.	Amount of Decrees.	Amount realized.	Remission.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1860-61	16,968	771	3,953	12,244
1861-62	45,817	11,825	22,640	11,352
1862-63	36,731	29,843	6,579	309
1863-64	1,27,921	1,24,367	3,554	.....
1864-65	15,676	15,642	34	.....
1865-66	13,969	5,810	8,159	.....
1866-67	5,060	3,286	1,774	.....
1867-68	24,924	6,500	18,424	.....
1868-69	5,845	4,583	717	545
1869-70	6,227	2,744	212	3,271
1870-71	14,063	13,228	13	822
1871-72	3,506	3,099	.....	407
1872-73	6,128	6,004	.....	124
1873-74	13,229	11,924	770	535
1874-75	5,278	991	.....	4,287
1875-76	70	70	.....	.....
1876-77	7,609	4,905	.....	2,704
1877-78	52,729	33,166	.....	19,563
1878-79	77,378	26,395	.....	50,983
Total ...	4,79,128	3,05,153	66,829	1,07,146

C.

Rent Suit Decrees.

Statement showing year by year the total amount of decrees, the amount realized, and balance outstanding from commencement up to the expiration of Court of Wards' period of management up to March 1879.

	Amount of decree awarded.	Realized.	Remission.	Balances
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1861-62	1,35,771	40,604	83,513	11,654
1862-63	34,45,233	13,96,445	15,83,013	4,65,775
1863-64	1,24,936	41,996	64,258	18,682
1864-65	93,626	66,818	16,844	9,964
1865-66	1,04,436	36,848	54,494	13,094
1866-67	38,865	31,764	6,757	344
1867-68	45,331	35,238	8,016	2,077
1868-69	47,715	33,210	13,315	1,190
1869-70	24,349	22,720	1,130	499
1870-71	12,151	10,436	1,715	.....
1871-72	19,925	13,466	1,402	5,057
1872-73	36,885	22,890	8,604	5,391
1873-74	54,507	30,991	2,454	21,062
1874-75	46,264	15,838	1,700	28,726
1875-76	32,209	10,879	2,534	18,796
1876-77	72,476	34,555	3,029	34,892
1877-78	97,647	29,814	241	67,592
1878-79	29,533	.....	.....	29,533
Total ...	44,61,859	18,74,512	18,53,019	7,34,328

D.

Statement showing year by year the number of decrees awarded, realized, and balance outstanding from commencement up to the expiration of Court of Wards up to September 1879 *in Dhurumpore, Purneah.*

Year.	Balance, outstanding before 1871-72.	Amount of decrees awarded.	Total.	Realized.	Remission.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1871-72	12,820	5,323	18,143	3,731	1,847	12,565
1872-73	12,565	31,448	44,013	18,591	.....	25,422
1873-74	25,422	3,301	28,723	7,029	1,181	20 513
1874-75	20,513	20,039	40,552	7,077	16	33,459
1875-76	33 459	3,554	37,013	10,464	58	26,491
1876-77	26,491	11,624	38,115	9,346	19 905	8,864
1877-78	8,864	8,282	17,146	7,447	79	9,620
1878-79	9,620	5,129	14,749	6,217	663	7,869
1879-80	7,869	1,157	9,026	2,258	.....	6,768
Total ...	1,57,623	89,857	2,47,480	72,160	23,749	1,51,571

E.

RENT SUIT DECREES.

Statement showing year by year the total of the decreed amount, the amount realized, and balance outstanding from commencement of Court of Wards' period of management, viz. *from April* 1861 *to March* 1879, *in the Bhagulpore portion of the estate.*

Official year.	Amount of decree.	Realized.	Remission.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1861-62	17,130	6,241	10 889	.....
1862-63	3,96,388	1,34,653	2,61,735	.....
1863-64	4,910	70	4,840	.....
1864-65	4,254	.....	4,254	.....
1865-66	.....	.....	.....	.....
1866-67	504	.....	504	.....
1867-68	4,533	4,026	507	.....
1868-69	1,486	379	1,107	.....
1869-70	671	435	236	.....
1870-71	.....	.....	.....	.....
1871-72	.....	.....	.....	.....
1872-73	14,821	14,803	18	.....
1873-74	.....	.....	.....	.....
1874-75	20,205	19,130	623	452
1875-76	20,008	14,147	2,957	2,904
1876-77	21,326	881	.....	20,445
1877-78	361	361	.....	.....
1878-79	32,863	16,042	3,008	13,813
Total ...	5,39,460	2,11,168	2,90,678	37,614

CHAPTER XVIII.

Alienation and resumption of Raj property.

Raj lands bearing an annual rental of about Rs. 6,22,166 are alienated as maintenance to various members of the family or to family priests, of which those held by collateral relatives having male issue and by family priests must be considered as permanently lost to the estate. Their annual rental may be set down at about Rs. 5,03,612.

2. The pergunnah held by Maharaj Kumar Baboo Gopeshwar Singh, youngest uncle of the Maharajah, will possibly revert to the Raj. He has been twice married and has no children. (Gross rental Rs. 58,108 per annum.) As a precedent, I may cite the case of Maharaj Kumar Baboo Basdeo Singh, who died shortly before the Court of Wards took charge. He left two daughters, but no sons, so his pergunnah, Jorail, with an annual rental of Rs. 1,44,065, reverted

to the Raj and was settled by the Court of Wards, who have paid the female relatives of the deceased and their offspring suitable maintenance allowances.

3. The few villages granted to widows and daughters of members of the family, now bearing a rental of Rs. 50,953, must all revert to the Raj as grantees die. Villages aggregating a yearly rental of Rs. 9,493 have thus reverted during the administration of the Court of Wards.

4. In addition to the above, large sums have been paid monthly to various relatives of the family. The Maharajah's mother, besides villages, receives for her own expenses Rs. 3,000 per mensem. His grandfather's and his great-grandfather's widows each receive Rs. 500 per mensem, smaller sums being paid to more distant relatives, amounting in all to Rs. 13,749-14-2.

CHAPTER XIX.

Debts.

The names of the principal creditors and the amounts paid to them by the Court of Wards are shown below. There is no doubt that the ticcadari system enabled these debts to be paid off so soon, owing to the six months' deposit or peshgi the ticcadars paid in for leases of mehals.

Name.	Amount.			Remarks.
	Rs.	A.	P.	
Roy Nandiput Mahta	15,24,537	9	8	Bond debts.
Bunwari Lal Sahoo	4,78,858	9	9	Ditto.
Hurnundun Lal Sahoo	6,14,864	9	10	Ditto.
Mr. A. Simpson	1,23,711	1	10	Ditto.
Babu Guneshwar Singh	1,00,000	0	0	Ditto.
Chamun Chowdhry	1,29,200	0	0	Ditto.
Syed Lutif Ali Khan and others	5,39,411	15	9	Ditto.
Kissen Buloo Mahta	1,42,332	0	0	Bond and zarpeshgi.
Mussamut Bibi Sahoodra, heir of Futehchand Sahoo ...	2,04,781	2	7	Bond.
Dabi Prosad	40,665	6	9	Bond and zarpeshgi.
Koshal Sukool	31,267	15	6	Zarpeshgi.
Mussamut Choharo Kooar	1,01,396	15	9½	Ditto.
Jey Lal, Ramjee Lal	24,368	0	1	Ditto.
Mr. J. Gale, Senior	1,52,890	12	0	Ditto.
Total ...	42,08,286	3	6½	

CHAPTER XX.

Investment.

The surplus proceeds up to 1864-65 were chiefly applied to the liquidation of the heavy debts due by the estate; subsequently the savings were invested in Government paper and purchase of landed property. In 1873-74 the investment in promissory notes amounted to 56 lakhs, but during 1874-75 notes for Rs. 32,00,000 had to be sold to meet the heavy charges for famine relief. Large investments were again made in 1877-78 and 1878-79, and Rs. 38,54,500 in 4 per cent. notes were made over to the Maharajah on the day he took charge.

2. The sum of Rs. 16 lakhs was invested in the purchase of landed property. The most important purchase was part of the Mudhoobunni property, made under the following circumstances.

Baboos Giridhari Singh and Doorga Dutt Singh, grandsons of Maharajah Chutter Singh, great-grandfather of the present Maharajah, became seriously involved, chiefly owing to the debts of their father and their property was put up to sale. In this dilemma the Baboos applied to the Court of Wards for assistance to save their lands from being sold by auction, and, on the strong recommendation of the uncles of the minor, the Court of Wards sanctioned the right and interest of the Baboos in the villages marginally noted being purchased for Rs. 14,72,881, calculated at 25 years' purchase, and alleged to bear a gross rental of Rs. 58,915 inclusive of Government revenue. As the matter was urgent

1. Rampore Bhatkhora, pergunnah Kubkhund.
2. Mehsi, pergunnah Kubkhund
3. Hurpore, pergunnah Hati.
4. Andhra Thari, pergunnah Jubdi.
5. Patrahi, pergunnah Jubdi
6. Mohinam, pergunnah Havi.
7. Koorth, pergunnah Gopalpore.

and there was no time to enquire into the actual jummabundi of the mehals, the jummabundi papers submitted by the Baboos were, with the sanction of the Court of Wards, accepted, and to indemnify the Raj for any loss, an *ekrarnamah* duly registered was taken from them, binding them to refund any portion of the purchase-money if, on enquiry, the jummabundi should be found less than alleged. As a collateral security, their right and interest in two villages, Joynagur, pergunnah Buchour, and Pundowl, pergunnah Hati, were mortgaged. Baboo Bhuan Lal was specially appointed by the Court of Wards to enquire into the jummabundi, and the Baboos were repeatedly asked to be present at the enquiry either in person or by duly authorized agents, but they took little or no notice of our requests. The jummabundi was found to be only Rs. 32,401, and the Baboos under the terms of the *ekrarnamah* were called upon to refund the proportionate amount of the purchase-money. They declined to do so, and a suit has been instituted against them in the Subordinate Judge's court at Mozufferpore for the refund of Rs. 8,61,388 with interest at 6 per cent. from the date of purchase. The Baboos proposed, through the Court, to repay the whole of the purchase-money with interest and take back the property; the Maharajah agreed to the proposal, but they could not procure the necessary funds within the time allowed, and the 8th of December has been fixed for hearing. The case is a good one, and the Maharajah is sure to win it, though it is possible that the amount of the claim may be modified to a slight extent.

3. Southfield-house in Darjeeling was purchased for Rs. 21,000, and is now worth some Rs. 40,000. If rented, the house will at least fetch Rs. 2,000 a year, but it is reserved for the Maharajah's own use.

The house in Benares was purchased for Rs. 12,000; it has been rented at Rs. 720 per annum ever since the Maharajah left Benares.

The other purchases are unimportant, and do not call for special mention.

4. In Purneah a sum of Rs. 52,648-8 was expended in the purchase of villages of 29,698 acres area, yielding a rental of Rs. 8,653 and paying a demand of Rs. 4,811-12-11¾, that is to say, out of the Rs. 52,648-8, a sum of Rs. 33,430-8 was paid for the purchase of mehals paying Rs. 1,693 rent direct to Government. These villages were so mixed with the Raj villages that they were the source of perpetual litigation and their purchase most advisable. Rupees 19,218 were spent in the purchase of *istumrars* that paid rent to the estate of Rs. 3,118-4-9¾. From these *istumrars* Rs. 6,121 are now collected, whilst the Government mehals yield Rs. 2,532, making up the total of Rs. 8,653.

CHAPTER XXI.

Financial.

The demand for the Tirhoot and Bhagulpore estate was Rs. 3,64,69,462, of which Rs. 3,05,12,307* were realized and Rs. 44,63,291 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 16,71,751 on 30th September 1879, or less than one year's rental of the estate.

Of the arrear balance—

A.—A large portion represents unrealized rent-decrees against Khawases and Bhundaries connected with the late Maharajah's household, either as servants or personal attendants. They were ticcadars of several villages, upon whom the Maharajah used to draw *tunkhas*. In 1862-63 they were indiscriminately sued for balances found to be due against them, with a view to save the amounts from being barred by limitation, though in several instances the Court of Wards were cognizant that part of the balances had been paid on *tunkhas*. Execution was repeatedly taken out against the parties, and every endeavour made to realize the decretal money, but the judgment-debtors or their heirs are simply paupers, and have no assets from which the amount due can be realized. It is doubtful if 5 per cent. of the amount can be ultimately recovered. This was represented on many occasions, and permission asked to strike off the hopeless cases, but the Court of Wards, while willingly allowing all had been done that was possible to realize, most distinctly enjoined that, save and except decrees barred by limitation, all should be kept alive

* Includes excess collections Rs. 1,77,887.

till the Maharajah attained his majority, on the mere chance of his being able to trace out some property appertaining to the debtors. The decrees have accordingly been kept on, and from time to time execution taken out to keep them alive. Compound interest and costs have in some cases more than doubled the original claim.

B.—On account of disputed rates.

Old retainers and members of the family have claimed to pay at lower than the normal rates, and not wishing to injure the Maharajah's future prospects by accepting those rates, we have had to permit arrears to accumulate, which the Maharajah will now be able to adjust under amicable settlements.

C.—On account of improper measurement papers.

D.—On account of commission, *kamshurrah*, *maefi*, and other allowances.

The remarks as to disputed rates partially apply to these also.

E.—On account of deceased and absconded ryots.

Statements recently received not being deemed trustworthy, further enquiries were ordered, in consequence of which several large amounts, which should have been remitted, have been kept on the books.

F.—On account of *najai* ryots, or ryots too poor and actually unable to pay.

G.—On account of *malikana* due from Government, which amount to Rs. 50,947 up to 30th September 1879, and for the payment of which application was repeatedly made to the Collectors of Mozufferpore and Durbhunga.

H.—The current balance for the first half of 1879-80 is chiefly due (1) because there was no bhadoi crop owing to the heavy rains and inundation; and, (2) because the amount shown as collectable in the first-half of the year is paid up by the majority of the ryots on the aughani crop, which, with the rubbi kist, is collected in the second-half. Indeed many of the ryots pay up their 16 annas rent on aughani, and this year they will be able to pay up this and the greater portion, if not the whole, of their arrears, owing to the splendid harvest expected both of aughani and rubbi.

The demand for Khurruckpore was Rs. 9,01,513, of which Rs. 8,37,360 were realized and Rs. 27,175 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 36,978 at the close of the minority.

Of the arrear balance—

A.—A large portion represents balance due by the ryots who were unable to pay up, owing to the failure of the rubbi and opium crops to the extent of 14 annas, and bhadoi to the extent of 10 annas last year and 16 annas this year.

B.—On account of improper measurement.

C.—On account of deceased and absconded ryots.

D.—On account of *najai* ryots, or ryots too poor and actually unable to pay.

The demand for Dhurrumpore was Rs. 53,08,603, out of which Rs. 41,16,791 were collected and Rs. 10,49,144 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,42,668 at the end of the minority.

Of the arrear balance—

A.—A large portion is due to Koosi inundations.

B.—A large portion is due to ghats having dried up and the lessees objecting to pay.

C.—*Najai* and absconded ryots—

The demand for the whole estate was Rs. 4,26,79,578, of which Rs. 3,54,66,458 were collected and Rs. 55,39,610 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 18,51,397, or less than a year's rental. Of this about half the amount will have to be struck off for reasons noted above.

The percentage of cost on actual collection is as follows:—

Tirhoot and Bhagulpore estates	9·2
Khurruckpore	19·5
Dhurrumpore	7·6
Total percentage ...	9·2

Tuccavi.

The sum of Rs. 5,80,270 was advanced on account of tuccavi, out of which Rs. 4,11,943 were realized and Rs. 44,147 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,24,180 in course of realization.

Cesses.

In the Tirhoot and *Naridigur* estates the collections on account of Road and Provincial Cesses were not, on the whole, satisfactory; while the raj paid Rs. 3,55,993 to Government, the collections from the ryots amounted to Rs. 80,763 only. This is attributable to the fact that the ryots, as rule, put off payment of the cesses till they have paid up their rents. Difficulty was also experienced in the collection of the cess from holders of lakhiraj tenures, and from Babuans or members of the raj family, to whom villages have been assigned for maintenance. The sum of Rs. 35,966, including arrears, is due from the latter.

In Khurruckpore the collection was fair; the demand was Rs. 8,624, of which Rs. 7,708 were collected and Rs. 243 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 673.

In Dhurmpore the demand was Rs. 50,323, of which Rs. 19,564 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 30,759.

The total demand for the Road and Provincial Cesses was Rs. 1,69,886, of which Rs. 1,08,036 were collected and Rs. 574 remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 61,276 in course of realization at the close of the minority.

When the Court of Wards assumed charge of the property in 1860, it was, as before stated, hopelessly involved. During the first five years of the Court's management, the debts were all paid up, and a surplus began to accumulate, which was invested in Government paper, and in 1873 amounted to 56 lakhs. Unfortunately, owing to the strain put upon the funds of the estate during the memorable famine of 1874, a considerable portion of the securities had to be sold off to meet the heavy famine charges, which amounted to Rs. 29,58,407. On my return from furlough in November 1877, I found the promissory notes reduced to Rs. 19,52,000. During the last two years of the management Rs. 19,02,500 were invested, and at the time of making over charge to the Maharajah the total sum thus invested amounted to Rs. 38,54,500. It was noted in the preamble of this report that the rent-roll in 1861 amounted to Rs. 16,39,357; it is now Rs. 21,61,855. The value of the whole landed and house property, calculated under the Board's ruling at eighteen times the annual rental, has increased from Rs. 1,92,22,884 to Rs. 2,52, 85, 284, and the estate is free from all encumbrances, with a cash balance of Rs. 2,75,733. I venture to hope in conclusion that the result will be considered satisfactory.

J. Burn, *Colonel*,

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

TABLE I.—*Management of the Landed Property of the Maharajah of Durbhunga under the Court of Wards, from* 1860-61 *to* 30*th September* 1879.

Year.	Revenue and rent due from the estate.						Rent due to the estate.						Effect upon the rent-roll of Government management.			
	Demand.			Payments.	Remission.	Balance.	Demand.			Collection.	Remission.	Balance.	Gross rental when taken in charge.	Additions under Court of Wards' management.	Reductions under Court of Wards' management.	Gross rental of the estate when made over.
	Current, including interest thereon, if any.	Arrear, including interest thereon, if any.	Total.				Current, including interest thereon, if any.	Arrear, including interest thereon, if any.	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1860-61	2,44,365	.....	2,44,365	2,36,245	.....	.....	10,58,152	8,89,154	19,47,306	7,17,692	74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1861-62	4,55,536	.....	4,55,536	3,37,862	.....	.....	23,96,071	.....	23,96,071	17,25,854	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1862-63	4,17,637	.....	4,17,637	4,84,505	.....	.....	22,58,134	.....	22,58,134	15,52,721	22,868	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1863-64	4,17,134	.....	4,17,134	4,48,064	.....	.....	19,16,182	.....	19,16,182	17,29,109	8,81,515	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1864-65	4,16,444	.....	4,16,444	4,19,111	.....	.....	49,26,200	.....	49,26,200	20,59,182	3,06,251	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1865-66	4,17,021	.....	4,17,021	4,18,310	.....	.....	19,10,456	.....	19,10,456	23,43,011	8,14,489	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1866-67	3,78,860	.....	3,78,860	3,98,119	.....	.....	20,47,971	.....	20,47,971	24,30,144	9,10,270	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1867-68	4,17,215	.....	4,17,215	4,19,723	.....	.....	19,33,825	.....	19,33,825	18,61,202	69,420	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1868-69	4,18,540	.....	4,18,540	4,18,129	.....	.....	17,73,944	.....	17,73,944	18,00,687	98,451	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1869-70	4,18,905	.....	4,18,905	3,95,050	.....	.....	19,49,655	.....	19,49,655	18,67,857	3,54,217	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1870-71	4,18,676	.....	4,18,676	5,00,778	.....	.....	18,45,903	.....	18,45,903	18,81,458	5,39,071	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1871-72	4,21,727	.....	4,21,727	3,69,660	.....	.....	20,64,164	.....	20,64,164	18,46,180	1,42,757	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1872-73	4,19,758	.....	4,19,758	4,29,570	.....	.....	19,99,626	.....	19,99,626	18,71,749	88,441	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1873-74	4,26,777	.....	4,26,777	3,27,432	.....	.....	20,51,323	.....	20,51,323	11,74,487	16,364	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1874-75	4,35,715	.....	4,35,715	4,62,283	.....	.....	20,52,542	.....	20,52,542	18,48,231	20,889	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1875-76	4,36,430	.....	4,36,430	5,44,073	.....	.....	22,53,414	.....	22,53,414	16,38,761	7,532	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1876-77	4,35,930	.....	4,35,930	4,42,574	.....	.....	22,33,741	.....	22,33,741	13,28,544	2,09,996	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1877-78	4,36,630	.....	4,36,630	4,34,924	.....	.....	21,38,057	.....	21,38,057	24,36,331	6,75,382	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1878-79	4,36,808	.....	4,36,808	4,42,426	.....	.....	21,73,435	.....	21,73,435	24,88,226	3,09,092	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
First six months of 1879-80	1,75,168	.....	1,75,168	1,98,223	.....	2,570	8,07,629	.....	8,07,629	8,67,032	72,531	18,51,397	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	80,45,276	.....	80,45,276	80,67,061	.....	2,570	4,17,90,424	8,89,154	4,26,79,578	3,54,66,458	55,39,610	18,51,397	16,39,357	11,14,851	5,92,323	21,61,885

Abstract.

Tirhoot	36,28,502	.....	36,28,502	36,26,540	.....	2,280	3,05,75,727	.....	3,05,75,727	2,54,81,272	36,21,820	15,66,927	11,36,372	7,88,630	3,75,132	15,49,870
Bhagulpore	5,07,370	.....	5,07,370	5,07,080	.....	290	58,93,735	.....	58,93,735	50,31,035	8,41,471	1,04,824	2,52,425	1,18,079	77,032	2,93,472
Dharrampore	36,99,228	.....	36,99,228	37,21,992	.....	.....	44,19,449	8,89,154	53,08,603	41,16,791	10,49,144	1,42,668	2,23,560	1,43,608	1,28,759	2,38,409
Kharruckpore	2,10,176	.....	2,10,176	2,11,449	.....	.....	9,01,513	.....	9,01,513	8,37,360	27,175	36,978	27,000	64,534	11,400	80,134
Total ...	80,45,276	.....	80,45,276	80,67,061	.....	2,570	4,17,90,424	8,89,154	4,26,79,578	3,54,66,458	55,39,610	18,51,397	16,39,357	11,14,851	5,92,323	21,61,885

Column 7.—The amount (Rs. 2,570) here given is the arrear balance actually due when the estate was released, and takes no account of Rs. 19,215 advance payments for a demand falling due after the release of the estate.

Column 9.—It is explained that the entry in this column is on account of Dharrampore only. This was the only arrear that could be ascertained when the estate was taken charge of. Subsequently the existence of other arrears was brought to light until the total amounted to Rs. 56,44,972, as shown in paragraph 11, chapter I of Colonel Burn's report. These arrears, as they were ascertained, are not entered in column 9, as they should have been put in column 8, and account for the large fluctuations in the current demand shown in that column.

Column 13.—The amount (Rs. 18,51,397) here given is the arrear balance of the demand actually due when the estate was released, and takes no account of Rs. 1,77,887 advance collections for demands falling due after the release of the estate.

J. BURN, COLONEL,

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

TABLE II.—*Classification of Balances of Rent due to the Estate.*

Due when the estate was taken in charge.				Accrued during Government management.					Total as in total of table 1, column 13.
Bad and irrecoverable.	Doubtful and disputed.	Doubtful, not disputed.	Good, and in process of recovery.	Not recoverable before the close of the minority.	Bad and irrecoverable.	Doubtful and disputed.	Doubtful, not disputed.	Good, and in process of recovery.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
.....	.....	1,58,635	6,232	.....	16,187	45,881	1,79,030	14,45,432	18,51,397

TABLE III.—*Recovery of Debts due to the Estate.*

Due when the estate was taken in charge.	Accrued during Government management.	Total, columns 1 and 2.	Recovered.	Written-off.	Balance.			
					Bad and irrecoverable.	Doubtful.	Good, and in process of recovery.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3,37,775	3,21,852	6,59,627	4,74,765	44,286	150	80,702	59,724	1,40,576

TABLE IV.—*Debts due by the Estate.*

Claims at date of assumption of charge.	Incurred since assumption of charge.	Total, columns 1 and 2.	Paid.	Reduction by compromise.	Balance.	
					Disputed claims.	Undisputed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
71,88,427	3,71,369	75,59,796	75,55,175	4,621	.....	.....

TABLE V.—*Valuation of the Estate.*

Nature of Property.	Value at date of assumption of charge.	Additions under the Court of Wards' management.	Reductions under the Court of Wards' management.	Value at end of the minority.	System of valuation for columns 2 and 5.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
I.—Landed property	1,92,22,884	15,78,851	678	2,52,85,284	
II.—Government securities	.....	90,84,841	51,13,481	35,82,546*	
III.—Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....		
Total ...	1,92,22,884	1,06,63,692	51,14,159	2,88,67,830	

* See explanation sheet.

J. BURN, COLONEL,

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

TABLE VI.—*Receipts and Disbursements.*

DR.

		Rs. A. P.
I—Cash balance taken in charge		3,720 14 4½
II—Rent (table 1, total column 11)		3,54,66,457 12 3½
III—Cesses		1,08,035 0 3½
IV—Interest on Government securities ...	16,61,260 4 2	16,61,260 4 2
V—Receipts exhibited in tables III and V—		
1. Debts recovered (table III, column 4)	4,74,765 4 1½	
2. Lands sold (table V, column 4) ...	678 1 1	
3. Securities sold (ditto) ...	51,13,481 4 1	55,88,924 9 3½
VI—Miscellaneous—		
1. Sale proceeds	2,29,404 6 8½	
2. Deposits	28,38,040 1 10½	
3. Subscription to vernacular schools ...	36,595 3 10¾	
4. Fines	1,028 8 5	
5. Forest produce	4,314 1 3½	
6. Cost and interest on decrees	3,52,965 10 4	
7. Meerun fees	25,329 6 4½	
8. Famine expenditure repaid by Government	7,87,767 4 6	
9. Refunds	1,90,332 3 11	
10. Wassilat	41,399 10 0	
11. Other items not detailed above ...	11,20,004 3 2½	56,22,270 12 1
GRAND TOTAL ...		4,84,50,669 4 5½

CR.

		Rs. A. P.
VII—Government revenue (table I, heading total, column 5)		80,41,112 13 10
VIII—Rent paid (ditto ditto) ...		25,948 10 10
IX—Cesses		4,19,758 3 11
X—Management of property—		
1. Salary of Manager, Assistant Manager, and Personal Assistant	7,93,835 3 4	
2. Establishment, travelling allowance, and commission of Assistant	18,55,156 0 5½	
3. Survey, settlement, measurement, and butwarah expenses..	1,56,215 3 3	
4. Contingencies	4,85,727 10 11½	32,90,934 1 11½
XI—Law expenses—		
1. Salary of agents and Government pleader's clerk	2,41,851 8 9¾	
2. Legal Remembrancer's fees ...	.....	
3. Other expenses	6,94,094 15 2	9,35,946 7 11¾
XII—Maintenance of proprietors—		
1. Salary of guardian	15,316 2 0	
2. Allowance to proprietor and family	23,20,201 4 4	
3. Social ceremonies	5,46,442 9 11	
4. Religious ditto	2,09,888 14 3	
5. Doctor's fees and medicines ...	.....	
6. Other expenses	1,06,151 9 0½	31,98,000 7 6½
XIII—Education		3,12,121 3 2
XIV—Miscellaneous—		
1. District post assessment ...	42,435 15 2½	
2. Municipal tax	48,263 1 8	
3. Deposits repaid	25,44,474 11 10½	
4. Schools	1,80,088 9 1½	
5. Dispensaries	94,915 4 3	
6. Works of public utility... ...	.....	
7. Special establishment	74,061 4 6	
8. Purchase and keep of horses, elephants, bullocks, &c. ...	7,63,379 3 11	
9. Managerie	6,376 7 11	
10. Extraordinary	4,71,934 4 7	
11. Famine relief, food, works, &c.	17,10,522 15 9½*	
12. Public works	54,92,244 10 9¾	
13. Income-tax	2,88,670 3 6	
14. Embankment	1,398 6 1	
15. Construction of bunds	16,328 5 2	
16. Forest conservancy	7,307 0 9	
17. Deposited in the collectorate for salaries of establishment, &c., retained for winding up accounts	89,468 8 0†	
18. Other items not detailed above	10,76,819 6 6¾	1,35,00,288 7 8¾
XV—Government office establishment, stationery, and postage		1,34,255 3 9½
XVI—Debts paid (table IV, column 4)— 1. Interest of principal debt ... 2. Principal debt	75,55,175 4 8½	75,55,175 4 8½
XVII—Investment (table V, column 3)		1,06,63,691 13 11
XVIIa—Inefficient balance		86,402 6 9¾
XVIII—Cash balance made over to the Maharajah...		2,78,638 14 4
GRAND TOTAL ...		4,84,50,669 4 5½

* The actual famine charges amounted to Rs. 29,58,407 as stated in the report. The amount (Rs. 17,10,523) entered here does not include Rs. 8,37,948 shown under "Works of public utility" on page 10 of that report and other items which have been shown under other heads.

† Of this there is a balance of Rs. 15,200-10-3 in the hands of the Collector of Durbhunga.

J. BURN, *Colonel,*

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

Explanation to accompany Final Return of Management of the Durbhunga Estate.

Table.	Heading.	Column.	
I	.....	.....	This return is prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the record of a conference held at Durbhunga on the 30th September last. As the balance made over to the Court of Wards, plus the current demand, must tally with the collections, remissions, and the balance outstanding at the end of minority, the balance at close of each year has not been shown. Table I therefore commences with the current demand for the first year of the Ward's administration, together with the balance then ascertained as due, and ends with the balance outstanding on the 1st October, the date on which the Ward's jurisdiction over the estate ceased to exist. The demands shown against some of the years in column 8 include arrears ascertained in those years as due from the late Maharajah's time. In annual returns the excess collections of previous years were again shown in collection column during the years in which they were adjusted. In the return under review such item have been omitted as twice shown in annual returns.
1	Total ...	5	Includes excess payment of Rs. 24,355; hence columns 5 and 7 will not tally with column 4.
1	.....	11	Includes Rs. 1,77,887 paid in advance; hence columns 11, 12, and 13 will not tally with column 10.
II	.....	.....	Explanation of the balances has been given in the final report; it is not therefore necessary to recapitulate it here.
III, IV, V, & VI	.....	.....	Include transactions of the first six months of the current year.
V	1	5	The value has been calculated on the current demand for the past official year 1878-79 as under, the demand for the current year not being known as yet—

		Rs.
Mofussil rental		21,61,885
Add demand for cesses		65,083
		22,26,968
Deduct 10 per cent. cost of collection		2,22,696
		20,04,722
Deduct Government revenue and rent payable to superior landlord ...	4,36,373	
Ditto cesses ditto ...	1,63,161	
		5,99,534
Net profit ..		14,04,738
		×18
Estimated value ...		2,52,85,284

V	1	5	The promissory notes amount to Rs 38,52,200,* and the value, calculated at a discount of 7 per cent., is Rs. 35,82,546.
VI	XVII*a*	.....	Of the inefficient balance—

Rs.	A.	P.		
60,094	4	3¾	appertain to the	Tirhoot and Nariddigur estates,
22,545	1	3	ditto	Khurruckpore estate.
3,763	1	2½	ditto	Dhurmpore do.
86,402	6	9¼		

Of Rs 60,094-4-3¼ appertaining to the Tirhoot and Narridiggur estates, Rs. 12,882-4-4 represent expenditure in the raj engineering department, of which Rs. 12,033-14-9 have since been adjusted by audited bills; Rs. 36,200-10-8¼ represent expenditure in connection with survey and settlement, of which Rs. 28,451-8-6 have since been adjusted; and the remainder represents advances to mookhtars, &c., which will be adjusted on receipt of their accounts.

Of Rs. 22,545-1-3 appertaining to the Khurruckpore portion of the raj, Rs. 17,345-6 represent amount deposited in the Monghyr Treasury and expended by the Collector, but no accounts were furnished to Mr. King, though repeatedly asked for; Rs. 2,796-8 represent expenditure on irrigation works and Bhimbund-road, but could not be adjusted from want of audit notes from the Collector of Monghyr; the remainder represents current expenditure, of which a portion has since been adjusted.

* Besides a note for Rs. 2,800 included in the cash balance as stated in the next page, the total amount of Government securities was therefore Rs. 38,54,500 as stated in the report.

Table.	Heading.	Column.	
VI	XVIII	.....	Rs. 3,763-1-2½ appertaining to the Dhurrumpore estate represent current expenditure. A portion has since been adjusted. Rs. A. P. Cash balance ... ... 2,78,038 14 4 Actual cash as reported in the charge sheet ... 2,75,733 4 9 Difference ... 2,305 9 7 The difference is made up of the following items— Rs. A. P. 2,300 0 0 represents value of a promissory note included in the cash balance of the Khurruckpore estate, while in the charge sheet it was shown under heading "Government securities." 5 0 0 represents value of postage stamps included in the cash balance of the Dhurrumpore estate, while in the charge sheet the amount was shown under heading "Postage stamps." 0 9 7 the cash balance in the Mozufferpore Collectorate on 30th September was Rs. 14,086-9-7, but in telegraphing the amount the Collector omitted the fractional parts; hence Rs. 14,086 were included in the charge sheet. 2,305 9 7

J. BURN, COLONEL,

The 5th December 1879.

Manager under the Court of Wards, Raj Durbhunga.

C. E. G., W. H. & T. A. G.—Reg. No. 14267J.—148--17-5-80.